

Bittersweet Life

by Fay-Mishima

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Summary: A story that I am co-writing with a very dear friend of mine (Aya) since 2007 - What would you do if the man you love was with someone else? What would you do if you knew he loved you back? Life is full of obstacles and sweet surprises. Follow the footsteps of the heroine and her best friend as they struggle to make it through this 'bittersweet' journey called life...

1. Chapter 1

****Bittersweet Life****

****Chapter 1****

"Fay, please stop with that nonsense." Sawada Aya sighed as she threw her books on the table and plopped on the couch leaning her head against its back. _Why is still ranting about that?_ She thought tiredly closing her eyes.

"Fine, but he was totally checking you out." Mishima Fay said walking towards the kitchen. "What do you want for dinner A-chan?" she shouted from the kitchen as to be heard while she was looking through some cupboards.

"Whatever you want, and he wasn't, he was trying to read the poster behind me." Aya grinned when she heard Fay's off-key version of Bon Jovi's 'Always'. Fay always had a soft spot for love songs. _That's why she always bugs me to write love songs, _she sighed.

Aya moved her head hearing all sorts of cluttering coming from the kitchen. "Fay, what _are_ you doing?" she yelled.

Fay's head popped out of the kitchen door and looked at Aya. "I am cooking of course," she said grinning, "Oh! I will make pasta with salad." She piped up cheerfully and pulled her head back into the kitchen.

After Fay had put the water to boil she walked out of the kitchen and into the living room where Aya was resting. She sprawled herself on the couch next to Aya and placed her feet on Aya's lap. Aya tilted her head and looked at Fay.

Fay pointed at the bags that lay on the floor in front of the small table that Aya was resting her feet on. "We should probably move those before we fall over them or you put one of your big feet through something expensive," she giggled.

"Hey!" Aya hit Fay on the arm playfully. "My feet aren't that big! And there's nothing that costs more than 3000 yen in any of the bags," Aya pouted mockingly. Fay laughed throwing her head backwards.

"Well, even so, we have to put those things away. These are our food supplies for next week," Fay said pulling a bag of candies out of one of the bags and looked at it wryly, she threw it over to Aya. "I believe that's yours.

"Thanks. Fay, I am depressed." Aya sighed heavily looking at ceiling.

"You can't be depressed, A-chan. It's the holiday season, and Christmas is next week. Do you want me to get the Christmas CD out?" Fay got off the couch and went to the CD stand. She rummaged through their CD collection, pulled out a CD and walked back to the couch grinning cheerfully.

"Fay, I can't handle one more 'Last Christmas'. I want to throw something heavy at the radio whenever I hear that song," Aya muttered and hugged a Winnie the Pooh teddy bear tightly.

"Someone's got up on the wrong side of the bed today," Fay teased as she placed the CD into the CD player and the 'Little Drum Boy' filled the room

"I know. But for some unknown reason I feel depressed and I don't know why," she sighed tiredly, "Christmas is my favorite time of the year." She popped a candy in her mouth.

"Have you heard from your parents yet?" Fay asked rummaging through the bags of groceries to find something to munch on.

"Ummâ€|Yeah my mom called me three days ago," Aya smiled briefly. She didn't want to ask Fay if her parents had called her because she knew they hadn't, but she had to ask or else Fay would feel vulnerable. _Fay's parents are a delicate subject._ "Your parents?"

Fay chuckled. "Are you kidding me? I haven't heard from my parents since they called to apologize for forgetting my birthday in March." _So much for parents, huh?_ Fay thought sarcastically.

"But your birthday is in July," Aya muttered thoughtfully.

"Exactly!" Fay shook her head with a smile.

"So it really is just the two of us this year." Aya sighed and closed

her eyes, leaning back into the couch. "Do you remember when we were nine, and my parents let you stay over that one Christmas Eve?" she looked at Fay with a warm smile.

"Yeah, I remember! We had our great plan to stay awake to see Santa?" Fay giggled, "We were fast asleep by ten thirty!" she lowered the volume of the music to be able to hear Aya better.

"Yeahâ€¦I remember you woke me up at dawn and we went downstairs to open our presents." Aya hugged the Pooh bear.

"Ummâ€¦." Fay nodded "And your parents caught us because you were yelling, jumping up and down when you found the piano they bought for you." Fay rolled her eyes and laughed at Aya's pouting face.

"Fay, it was a piano!" Aya exclaimed looking at her friend disbelievingly, _she will never understand what that piano meant to me,_ she thought sadly.

Aya's dream, since she was a little girl, was to be able to sing one day. She loved music; she craved to write her own music. She was never very good at expressing her feelings to others although she was very carefree and outgoing. Music was her bridge to communicate her feelings to the rest of the world.

Fay's parents were wealthier than Aya's family, so they could afford to spoil their daughter in many ways. That Christmas they had bought her so many gifts that Fay gave half to Aya. Fay could never understand why Aya was so happy about the piano since she had everything she ever wanted.

"Fay," Aya said softly "It has been fifteen years since that time," she sighed, "A lot of things have changed."

"That's true sweetie, but we will always be together." Fay jumped in Aya's arms and hugged her tightly. "We are partners in crime, right?" she pulled back and smiled at her friend lovingly.

"Yup! Partners in crime," Aya giggled like a small child.

There was never a time in the lives of both girls, that they hadn't been best friends. From the moment they met in preschool, through the playful years in elementary and all the way to High school, they had been there for each other. Aya had kept Fay from growing too wild and Fay had kept Aya from growing too serious. A perfectly balanced friendship that had outlasted the tough, hard and innocent school days and eventually had led them to the apartment they both now lived in.

Fay got up from the couch slowly and walked to the kitchen to see if the water was boiling so she would cook the pasta for Aya. After throwing the pasta in the boiling water, she moved to the sink and washed the vegetables for her salad.

Aya walked in the kitchen and sat on a chair resting her head on one hand on the table. "Can I do something to help you?" she asked bored.

"Nope. Just keep me company," Fay grinned and started chopping the vegetables.

"Why are you making salad?"

"You will have the pasta and I will have the salad. Don't worry I know you don't like eating salads. I will not try to kill you," Fay giggled teasingly, looking at Aya frown. She let the knife down and moved to the pot where she was boiling the pasta. Aya had once told her that the best way to find out if pasta was cooked was to throw a piece against the wall. If it stuck, then it was done. Aya had regretted ever telling Fay, because it was the only test Fay ever used.

Fay positioned herself and threw a piece of spaghetti flying across the kitchen, followed by Aya's groan. She laughed happily at her friends antics and took the pot out of the stove.

"Do you want me to make some sauce or you will have ketchup?" Fay asked looking at Aya while she was preparing her salad.

"Just cheese," Aya replied.

Fay brought the food to the table once she had finished with her salad and she placed each plate in front of them.

"Did we decide on what we will have for Christmas?" Aya asked munching on her pasta.

Fay looked at her and laughed. "I think I will make risotto," she said and waited for Aya's reaction.

"Yuck." Aya stuck out her tongue.

Fay laughed again and lifted her hand to cover her mouth. "I am just joking," she said quickly after the glare Aya gave her. "So, have you heard from Arisa today?" Fay asked to change the subject and distract Aya from her murderous thoughts. _That was close,_ she giggled.

"Nope. She said she would try and call towards the end of the week." Aya sighed and sipped from her glass. "I do hope they don't have more problems on their hands." Fay nodded.

Arisa had been their friend since middle school. They'd opened their arms to the pretty girl with the talent for drawing and Arisa had become the third link in their chain. She had fallen in love with teenage father Oshitari Yuushi, and after graduating high school, the two of them had packed up and left with Yuushi's daughter Kaede to escape Kaede's mom, Moriyama Shizuka. Shizuka had been drifting in and out of Yuushi's and Kaede's life, trying to prove to Yuushi that she was a trustworthy mom, but Yuushi had found her in too many compromising positions to trust her with Kaede ever again.

Aya and Fay only saw Arisa a handful of times every year, but they spoke at least once or twice a week over the phone, still as close as ever, despite the distance.

"Maybe she'll tell us she's coming home for Christmas," Fay said with a weak smile. She missed having Arisa around; she always made her mood sky-rocket when she was there.

"Yeah, maybe," Aya said trying to cheer up Fay that had lost her cheerfulness. _She misses her the most,_ she thought sadly.

Aya got up from the table and walked to the sink. She placed her plates down and walked back to the table. She sat on her seat and finish of her drink. "Ummâ€¦Fay I will be singing at 'VOX' tomorrow. Are you going to come?" Aya asked batting her eyelashes.

"Of course, Sawada Aya. Where else would I be?" Fay teased faking to be hurt by her question. "Are you going straight from the office?" Fay laughed. She got up from the table and walked to the sink.

"Yeah, I won't finish until late tomorrow. My boss is very strict; he has to finish everything in order to live contently. Do you want me to meet you at the shop?" Aya asked and went to the sink to wash the dishes.

"Sure. I will ask Kumiko-san if she would lend us a couple of outfits for tomorrow, so you would make an impression on those music people." Fay yawned wiping her hands on a cloth.

"That's great. Kumiko-san is very nice," Aya grinned. "I will finish cleaning up the kitchen. You go to bed." She continued as she was still washing up. "Shooo."

"Thanks A-chan. Goodnight." Fay walked out of the bedroom and into her room. She plopped on her bed and let her thoughts trail away.

Their apartment wasn't very big but was not considered small either. Their kitchen was fairly big and had the same size as their living room. Their bedrooms on the other hand were very spacious and had a bathroom each. Since Junior High, Fay had suggested that they should move in together when they graduate from University and live together away from their parents. Fay never wanted anything from her parents because they simply didn't care about her. So they had opened an account and put most of their allowance in it.

After they graduated they had a good amount of money to find an apartment in another city away from their old life. They wanted to start fresh without worries about parents. Aya's parents where always their for her, they had helped both girls get their apartment and then left for Sapporo to live over there with Aya's older brother who was married and living there for 10 years. Both siblings had 8 years difference so when he moved to go to study in Sapporo Aya was already in Junior High. Fay's parents didn't care much about her moving to another city, all they did was give her a check and they left for Europe.

They had found jobs very easily. And they rented their apartment mostly on their old savings. Aya had found a job as an assistant editor at a sports magazine. And Fay had found a job at a boutique. Their wages kept them mostly afloat but some months they managed to spend a little more on themselves.

This Christmas they bought presents for each other and for Arisa, Yuushi and Kaede. They had found a corner to place them because they hadn't bought a Christmas tree yet, so in order to keep the presents presentable they had piled them up in a corner in their living room.

They weren't sure if they would be over for the Christmas holidays because they had to lay low in case Kaede's mom attempted to kidnap her again.

Looking at her watch, Fay smiled as she realized it was only eight thirty. As a teenager, she stayed out until the early hours of the morning, but as a working girl in the city, it was a different story. She relished the days she could get to bed as early as possible. Tiredness was an everyday fatigue in their lives, but they were coping as well as they could. They were working for their dreams, as well as living them, and they were doing it themselves, and together.

Fay had spent most of her nights at an evening school, studying to get her business management masters. Her biggest dream was to become a CEO to some high-pitched company. It wasn't something easy considering the competition she would have to face and fight, but she was working towards it. Working in a boutique made her happy, and her boss was like a big sister to her, always happy to lend her money or clothes. She always would joke that Fay and Aya were her favorite models, so she had to keep them in fashion. Although Fay never accepted the money, she happily let Kumiko-san lend her beautiful clothes. It was handy for the nights when Aya sang at 'VOX'. Aya used to sing for the two nights Fay had free, and Fay always sat in the audience, cheering her on.

It's about time I get ready for bed, she thought smiling happily. She got of her bed and changed into her pajamas; she brushed her teeth and washed her face; she then climbed into bed, closing her eyes. Life had been pretty good to her. It had brought her Aya.

* * *

><p>"Sanada, just drop it?" Niou Masaharu said, placing a file on his desk.<p>

"She was looking at you, Niou," Sanada Gennichirou said untying his tie.

"And since when do you actually talk about women?" he said jokingly, not even looking at Sanada as he was rummaging through the papers on his desk.

"I don't talk about women in general! That still doesn't change the fact that she was looking at you," Sanada replied, annoyed by Niou's observation.

Sanada sat at his chair looking at the pile of papers on his desk. Then he looked over at Niou Masaharu, his friend and co-worker. He actually wondered how on earth he even got stuck with him, let alone open a law-firm office together. However, it happened so quickly that he didn't have the time to think about it. Not that he was complaining; life with Niou was everything but boring. It was just that he was too perky as a person for Sanada to be friends with. And that was not all, they also lived together. They had rent a small apartment together so they could cut the expenses in half.

"She was not looking at me. She was looking at her friend that was standing two feet away from me," Niou said letting out a sigh. He had another divorce file in front of him and he was getting irritated

with everyone who got married and divorced after a year or two.

"You knowâ€¦." He said dryly. "I have had enough of all these divorce cases. Why do people get married in the first place? And why aren't you going through this divorce case?" he said, looking at Sanada.

Sanada got up from his desk and just took the file from Niou without saying anything. He sat at his desk and flipped the file open. "No wonder you want me to handle this case." He muttered under his breath, loud enough for Niou to hear though.

"Well, we do not share the same opinion over justice, so, this is a case you should work on." Niou grinned at his friend. Leaning backwards in his chair, Niou thought of the days he and Sanada where in High school. He only lived to tease Sanada, not that he ever stopped teasing him even now. He chuckled at the memory of their first day at the new apartment. Sanada had written a list of what he should NOT do, and he had hang it on the inside of Niou's bedroom door. Life was surely interesting living with Sanada Gennichirou. In his youthful days he used to be very serious and 'almost' speechless, but now after living together for five years he finally relaxed. Well, as possible as Sanada would ever be relaxed. Niou had suggested to Sanada after their graduation from High school that they should study Law and open a Law-firm, but Sanada just burst out laughing. Well, seeing Sanada laughing his heart out was priceless, there was only one in a million that could ever happen, but somehow they did get through the Law University and managed to build up a small Law-firm office.

"Niou, what are your plans for tonight?" Sanada asked, snapping Niou out of his reverie.

"Umm, I have nothing planned. Why you ask?" He looked over at Sanada smirking. "Any ideas? Do they include female company too?" He said with tease in his tone of voice.

Sanada coughed. "No Niou, I was merely thinking that you might want to join me at the meeting I will have with our client," he said dryly.

Standing from his chair with his usual smirk plastered on his face "Ummmâ€¦I think I will pass. That's why I handed you the file in the first place. Besides I have to meet Yagyuu for dinner. See you later." Before disappearing through the door he added "Oh! Sanada, tomorrow, do not make any plans, for we are going to 'VOX' to check out some upcoming singers!" he winked and closed the door behind him leaving Sanada with a mountain of paperwork.

Sanada sighed and thought that he would definitely survive the paperwork and the meeting with their client, but he wasn't very sure if he would survive another outing with Niou. Every time he would go out with Niou he would end up with all sorts of weird women. _If he gets me another weirdo I will definitely strangle him;_ He got up from his desk packed some of the paperwork in his bag and left for the meeting he had with his client.

_At the meeting _

"Matsuda-san, of course we will fight for the custody of your

children. I read your file and from what I can see is that our chances are high. I also know that the judge overlooking the case is a just man and does not tolerate abusive parents. We are very lucky to have him on our case." Sanada reasoned with the woman in front of him. She was in her 40s and her husband was an alcoholic and abused her and their two daughters. He was from a first class high society family and could buy off anyone he wanted. What has this world come to, he thought irritated. He was never good at talking to people but because of his profession he had become more fluent. He liked to keep his thoughts for himself and express as little as possible, but that was a long time ago, he had changed. He had matured. He was 25 years old and had a good future ahead of him. He wondered what his life would have been like if he never followed Niou's idea as crazy as it sounded back then. He looked at the woman in front of him and felt sorry for her. Yes, he had a good life, even living and working with his perky old friend Niou Masaharu. At least he was lucky to have him by his side.

At another part of Tokyo

"So, I guess you left poor Sanada to do all the work, again?" Yagyuu said with a half smile.

"Ummâ€¦I guess so!" Niou answered smirking. "I am full. This is a very nice restaurant Hiroshi," he said looking around the luxurious room.

"Well, my uncle owns it and I come often here, the food is amazing," Yagyuu said with a small tone of pride in his voice. "Masaharuâ€¦" He looked at his former doubles partner "I am getting married and I would like you to be my best man," he finally said with a smile.

"Hiroshi. I am impressed. Of course I would be your best man. I could help your wife get through all those lonely nights when you are away at your golf tournamentsâ€¦Ouchâ€¦" He felt a growing pain in his foot. Yagyuu had kicked him out of reflex when he heard Niou's teasing

"I was only kidding Hiroshi. Congratulations!" he added with a grin.

"Thank you Masaharu. Please don't tell Sanada yet, I will announce it at the dinner party I will have next week," Yagyuu said quietly. He looked at Niou and saw him grinning like a small kid. It was amazing that he could look so innocent, knowing that the wheels in Niou's head never seemed to work, it was a scary feeling.

Later onâ€¦at the boy's apartment

"Sanadaâ€¦I see you have been busy," Niou said dryly as he plopped himself on the beige couch that looked so out of place in their light mustard small living room.

"How was your lunch with Yagyuu?" Sanada said, not looking at Niou, but was busying himself with paperwork he brought with him from work. Leaving his pen and leaning backwards on his chair he looked at Niou's figure slouched on the couch. "You know, we should change the color of the walls. It's so depressing," he muttered. "I am tired," he whispered to no one in particular.

"Want to play a set?" Niou said looking to his side to meet Sanada's eyes that were fixed on him. Looking at Sanada he realized that his friend was very stressed. Sanada was a loner, and he would never express his feelings to anyone, he would live with all his problems, frustrations and emotions building up inside him, that's why he looked soâ€¦untouchable! Yes, that was the word that described Sanada as a person. He remembered that a couple of years ago Sanada was dating a woman that he fell in love with. They were still in University were they met, they had a great relationship but at the end she threw him out her life, just like that for no reason what so ever. That hurt Sanada very much, he never saw his friend so devastated before. Sanada had promised never to let another woman to get so close to his heart ever again, that's why Niou could never fix him up with any of the women he knew. Sanada did not want to evolve himself in a relationship, at least not so soon, that's why he had turned in to an addictive workaholic.

"Why not! The loser gets cleaning duties for the weekend," Sanada said as he got up from his chair and walked to his room to change into pants and a light sweater. They had chosen this small apartment refusing to get a bigger, only because there was a court right across the street opposite their apartment.

Walking towards the courts silently they warmed up lightly and started playing a set. Nothing had changed in their tennis skills; they were as sharp as ever. Neither Niou nor Sanada ever wanted to pursue a career in tennis, such as Yukimura and some other acquaintances had, they always wanted to do something to be able to help the people around them, in their community, society, town. Both in their own unique way.

"6 games to 5. Sanada it's your turn to serve," Niou yelled while taking deep breaths to ease his puffing. Sanada served an ace with his invisible swing. "This game wins the match," he said breathing hard after all the effort he had put in this game.

They continued to rally for another half hour untilâ€¦."6 games all." Niou called out and they both went to the bench to rest.

"So, who won?" Sanada asked while he was drying himself up from the sweat.

"Don't know. I guess we both get to do the cleaning this weekend," Niou replied with a grin.

"Great!" said Sanada groaning "Lets go, we have an early morning tomorrow." Saying that, he took his things and walked out of the court, with one thought in his mindâ€¦a warm bath to clean up and let the water take his remaining stress down the drain.

"Goodnight Masaharu!" Sanada said while waving his hand at Niou and then entered his room.

"Goodnight Gennichirou!" Niou said while entering his own roomâ€¦

* * *

><p>Fay whirled in her bed. She had been awake for almost an hour, but decided to be lazy. She didn't need to be at work early today. It

was Saturday and she had to work the afternoon shift and then go with Aya to 'VOX' where her friend would perform. Aya had started to sing at 'VOX' the last couple of months and she really enjoyed listening to her friend sing. She was not talented as Aya but she was devoted to her goals. That's why she took night classes for her major in Business Management. She sighed the minute she thought of the profession she wanted to follow, there was serious competition in that circle of jobs, but she would make it, she was not a quitter, she was strong enough to make it to the top.<p>

With that thought in mind she got off of bed and went to have a shower to wake up.

"Good morning sleepy-head!" Aya said when she saw Fay's head peek out of the corner.

"Morning babe," Fay answered in her usual brisk tone "What you're doing?" she inquired sitting herself at the table knowing that Aya had just made breakfast. How could she not know, it smelled from miles away. Although Fay was never a breakfast person, she did enjoy the humble breakfast her friend made.

"Well, here you go. Scrambled eggs!" Aya gave Fay a plate. "It's better than nothing," she muttered seeing Fay's expression. She sat opposite Fay and munched on her breakfast._ I wonder why she doesn't like breakfast; _

"So, what time should I come by the store to pick you up? You are still coming, right?" Aya asked, looking at Fay eating.

"Of course I am coming, you know I would never miss your performances at 'VOX' right?" she answered cheerfully "I wonder what I should wear tonight? By the way you should wear something other than jeans and a tank-top," Fay said to Aya in a matter-of-fact tone of voice.

"Umm, you know I was thinking the same thing. But you know me; at the end I will still wear my comfy jeans," Aya giggled.

Fay let out a sigh; her friend didn't have the best dressing sense in the world. She would cling on to those jeans as if she had no other clothes to wear.

"Whatever! I really can not deal with you when it comes to dressing up," Fay said picking the dishes up and started to wash them. "What time does the show start?"

"At 8 pm but I am at slot No.7, what time do you finish?" Aya walked to the door of her room and stopped "Is it ok if we change at the store?"

"Yeah, it will be ok. Besides I will ask Kumiko-san to lend us some clothes for tonight," Fay said, drying her hands with a cloth. "I will make sure u look good tonight. It's time to get you a boyfriend," she said with a wink at a bewildered Aya.

"I don't need you to find me a boyfriend. And surely I don't need to dress up to sing either," said Aya blushing furiously and feeling embarrassed.

"Whatever." That was all Fay said and entered her room leaving Aya

still looking at her. They both had been hurt by boyfriends in the past, that's why they didn't like meeting allot of guys. Fay remembered the time when Aya was dumped by her boyfriend, well dumped isn't the best word but it was close. He wasn't a bad guy. But he had promised to love her forever and that only lasted seven months. 'Forever', she thought, it was only a word that people would use in a moment of joy or despair to hold on to something, but at the end it was just a word. Her experience with men wasn't fruitful either. Her last boyfriend of three years ago had been cheating on her for quite a while. Niwa Tetsuya. He was the most gorgeous creature she had ever seen, she had fallen in love with him instantly. They had met after a couple of weeks at a friend's dinner party and clicked right away. They were together for almost a year, when one day she walked in on him making love to his best friend. She couldn't believe the scene in front of her eyes, she run out of the building and went straight to Aya. She remembered she had cried for a long time and Aya would never leave her side, she had thanked her lucky Goddess for bringing Aya to her life.

"That was a long time ago," she said to herself and started cleaning her room.

After the end of that relationship she had gone totally wild for the next 12 months until Aya had argued with her and she finally made a promise to herself never to let a guy get so close to her. At that moment her phone rung and snapped her out of her reverie.

"Where the hell have you been?" she said picking up the phone, she had checked the caller ID and knew it was Arisa.

"Well, hello to you too girlfriend," Arisa said cheerfully, "You seem to be in a grumpy mood today. Its Saturday, how come you are in such a sunshine so early in the morning;" She said laughing.

"You got me in this lovely mood. Its one week before Christmas and you said you would call a week ago to let us know if you guys are coming." Fay complained sitting on the edge of her bed.

"I am sorry about that love, but we were busy with some stuff. We found a Law-firm that would look into Yuushi's case. And we will come back on Wednesday to meet with them and spend the Christmas holidays with you guys," Arisa said in one breath not losing her cheerful tone. "We will go to a hotel near to your apartment and we will spend as much time as possible together. I have missed you guys so much!"

"We have missed you too Piglet!" Fay giggled, she was happy to know that they wouldn't spend Christmas alone "Why don't you guys stay with us? I know our apartment is small but you could stay in my room and I could stay with Aya. I know she wouldn't mind as long as we had you guys here."

"Umm, I will talk to Yuushi about it and get back to you on that. How is Aya?" Arisa asked. She and Aya were most of the times on bad terms but they loved each other. They had to or else Fay would go ballistic on them. Arisa giggled to herself.

"She is great. Tonight she is singing at 'VOX'. Maybe you guys will see her perform when you come. She is really doing well," Fay said proudly.

"I am glad to hear that. I tried to call her before I call you but her phone was closed. Give her my love and best of luck for tonight. Soâ€¦Fay, any new love interest?" Arisa asked briskly, she was in the mood for gossip and she knew that Fay wouldn't let her down. It was true that Fay hated to gossip but she would indulge Arisa because she was one of her two best friends.

"Umm, no. I haven't found anyone that would peak my interest. But I heard that Saeki got married a couple of weeks ago," she laughed at her friends squeal, "That's all I have heard on the gossip of Chiba! At the moment I am more preoccupied with finding a job at a company so I could get into the fight for the top," she laughed again at her friends groan, it was true that Arisa would never think of following a carrier like that, she wanted to be a freelancer and she had her art and Yuushi.

"Well, Yuushi has some good news for you but I will let him tell you himself when we see you next week. As for the love situation, you should look around, guys don't fall from the sky and into your arms you know!"

"I know Piglet!"

"Stop calling me that, we are not in High school anymore!" Arisa exclaimed annoyed, she never liked her nickname from their youthful days but had to go along with it. She couldn't stand Aya's mood swings.

"Oh, come on! You never did like that nickname did you?" Fay laughed and looked at the time on the clock hanging from the opposite wall. "Piglet, I have to go. Need to get ready for work. Give my love to Yuushi and lots of kisses to Kaede. You take care, ok?" Fay got up from the bed where she was sitting for the past 45 minutes talking to Arisa; she didn't want to be late for work.

"Ok! Have fun tonight! See you guys next week. Bye!" Arisa sighed and closed the phone. She would kill Aya if she heard that nickname one more time.

* * *

><p>Somewhere in Tokyo, in another apartment

Sanada was knocking on Niou's door, but wouldn't get an answer.

"Masaharu, get up already!" he yelled again and left for the kitchen. Niou could be so difficult to wake up. He sighed, he was tired and in no mood to do anything at the moment, he made some tea and walked to the living room to sit on their weird colored couch. He flipped the TV on and run through the channels to find something interesting. He left it on a sports channel and leaned his back in to the couch. Although the color was weird and didn't match the room it was very comfortable. He tilted his head backwards and rested it on the back of the couch as to be able to look at the ceiling. These last few weeks it was all he could do to keep his thoughts focused. He was aware of how much he had changed in the past 5 years. He was so serious and strict, he wouldn't say much, he was always a loner and never would let his emotions or feelings get to him. He never liked

to be or feel weak either. But that was another Sanada Gennichirou, someone that lived a different life than his. It was true what his family had told him; that people change. Now he couldn't recognize himself, he was different, he would talk more, let his emotions flow through him and was feeling the loneliness get to him. He didn't like that feeling, it made him weak. He sighed; he wondered when he started to change, so much that he didn't know himself anymore. It was after he had met her, the woman he had fallen in love with in his University years. She had been great and it was the first time he had felt complete, but one day, suddenly she just gave him the cold shoulder and run off to marry some big shot. That had hurt him, it was the first time he noticed how lonely he was all those years when he wouldn't let himself get carried away from all those girls at school. He groaned.

"Thinking about how wonderful life is?" Niou peeked from behind him smirking as usual.

"Niou, do not do that again. I might hit you next time. And I will feel good about it too!" Sanada said dryly to his friend that sat in a chair on his right drinking his coffee. Niou had picked up smoking in their senior year of High school, but since they started living together he had quit. He was forced to quit, it was on Sanada's NOT to do list.

"I couldn't help it. Soâ€¦What were you thinking?" Niou said cheerfully as nothing had happened.

"Oh! Nothing. Just some stuff!"

"As much as you have changed, you still are a stone when it comes to proper communication!" Niou said dryly sipping his coffee.

Sanada didn't answer; he just looked at Niou from the corner of his eye.

"I hope you didn't forget that we are going out tonight, right?" Niou said as he started flipping the channels to find some anime to watch.

"I didn't forget. But I don't want you to bring any weird women to meet us." Sanada sat up and drunk his tea. It had gotten cold, but he didn't mind. He got up and head for the kitchen. Niou didn't follow him; he just sat there waiting for Sanada to come back.

"I will meet Yukimura for lunch. What are you going to do Masaharu?" Sanada asked as he made his way back to the leaving room.

"I think I will just do some work." He said indifferently.

"Work?" Sanada asked raising his eyebrow a bit surprised "You hardly work all other days, and you are going to work on a Saturday?"

"Yup. I got an excellent case I need to look at. Besides it's of an old acquaintance," Niou replied watching Naruto on the TV.

"Acquaintance?" Sanada repeated thoughtfully. He wondered who from his circle of friends might have a problem that they needed a lawyer's help. "Who?" was his simple question.

"Oshitari Yuushi!"

"Oshitari Yuushi?" he asked again thinking he heard wrong.

"Yes. Apparently he had an affair back in High school and ended up with a baby. His girlfriend at that time just left him with the baby and took off and now she is back claiming her daughter," Niou answered switching of the TV.

"But he could afford some high class lawyer, why did he come to us? And why did you accept?" Sanada asked dryly looking at the file that Niou gave him. _Oshitari was a teenage father?_ He would have never thought it to be possible.

"Well, no one wants to take his case because the judge will probably give the girl back to its mother."

"That doesn't answer my question on why you took this case." Sanada eyed Niou carefully.

"You know me Gennichirou. I like getting back at the system. Besides he is in a circle of High Class society that could benefit us if we win this case," Niou said pleasantly.

"Did it ever cross your mind that we might not win the case? I wouldn't think it did!" Sanada said irritated.

"Oh, come on Sanada. We have nothing to lose but a lot to gain from this case. We need and will win this case," Niou said taking the file from Sanada to start working on the case.

Getting up from the couch Sanada headed for his room. "Ok, Masaharu! I will concede to this. Now I will go and get dressed to meet Yukimura." Standing at the door of his room; "What time should we go to 'VOX' tonight?"

"The show starts at 8 pm; it would be good to be there at around 9 pm. The good singers come out around that time," Niou said indifferently reading the case file. When Oshitari had called his office and asked if he would be able to help him, Niou didn't want to get involved with him. But after Oshitari explained his problem, he changed his mind. He thought that he should try and help him, not for the sake of him but for his little daughter. To Niou it always seemed that justice was not blind but was blinded by men because of their greedy intentions. So, he decided to follow a carrier in Law only to try and make some things right. He had changed. He had matured. Although he kept his usual perky and tricky character around people, he knew he had changed. He was more serious in his job, even when Sanada complained that he didn't work much. _Sanada complaining,_ he thought still reading the file. It was true, Sanada had changed too, he could see it and he could feel it.

"Whatever," he muttered to himself snapping out of his thoughts and concentrating on the case in hand.

"I am going Masaharu. See you later," Sanada said leaving the apartment.

"Yeah! Say hi to buchou for me," Niou called out so that Sanada would

hear him, he must have spaced out in his thoughts for a while.

* * *

><p>Downtown Tokyo, at "Kenza" store

"Kumiko-san, thank you so much for these clothes; You are the greatest," Fay said cheerfully holding two pairs of hangers for each girl.

"You are more than welcome Fay. You don't need to give them back to me. Take them as gift from me," Kumiko said smiling full-heartedly to the young girl in front her. She loved the girls very much. She had lived her life mostly alone; she was not married and had no kids. But when Fay walked in to the store and asked for a job, no, the right word would be 'demanded' a job, she had fallen for the briskly girl and her quiet friend. Those two together made a perfect pair, two totally opposite people that fitted so well together. That's why she decided to be like an elder sister to both girls.

"You know, I doubt that Aya would wear that beautiful skirt. She is such a tomboy," Fay giggled fixing some clothes on a hanger.

"Well, that's why I gave you a jeans skirt. She might feel comfortable if its jeans. Besides, once she falls in love she will change into a woman." Kumiko reasoned playing with her pen while looking at a new employees CV.

"Umm, if I recall correctly, it was falling in love that turned her into a tomboy in the first place," Fay laughed. She walked to another counter to fix some tops and check if they needed some more of those items displayed.

"Really? Must have been heart-broken then," Kumiko replied looking at Fay carefully. "And you my dear, have you been heart-broken?" she asked softly.

Fay stopped what she was doing and thought for a moment before she answered "It was a long time ago. I have moved on." She turned and faced Kumiko with a bright smile "I am sure that my lady-luck will send someone nice and charming into my arms."

Kumiko had to smile to that declaration "I am happy to see that you are over that. That's why I chose that dress for you. I know how much you love to look nice on outings," Kumiko said returning to do her previous job.

* * *

><p>At a restaurant in Kanagawa

"Well Sanada, how is life with Niou?" Yukimura smiled eyeing his friend carefully. "You look tired. Is he causing you trouble?" he said softly.

"No. Niou is just Niou. It's true though, I am tired," Sanada said solemnly, folding his hands in front of him.

"And the reason is?" Yukimura asked still looking at Sanada carefully.

Sanada sighed, he couldn't lie to Yukimura; They were best friends since Junior High. "I am just emotionally stressed. That's all." He pushed his plate away and sipped his wine not looking at Yukimura.

"Gennichirou," Yukimura said softly, "You need to get out of that shell you have clamped yourself in and live life to the fullest. Forget your loneliness, and don't let Masaharu find women for you, the man has absolutely no taste in women." Yukimura sat back in his chair and rested his hands on his thighs never averting his eyes from Sanada.

"Seiichi, I have not clamped myself in any shell," Sanada said seriously.

Yukimura laughed "Is that all you heard from what I said Gennichirou?" he sipped his wine never breaking his eye contact. "Seriously, in some ways you are still the same," he said laughing.

"I don't see where the fun is Seiichi. You first insult me and then laugh at me," Sanada said annoyed at his friend's teasing. He knew Yukimura was only teasing him but, as Seiichi said, in some ways he was still the same.

Still laughing at his friend's antics, "Should I repeat what I said so that you would stop being such a grouch?"

"Seiichi!" Sanada narrowed his eyes at Yukimura.

"Do you know what you need Gennichirou? A woman!" Yukimura said cheerfully. Sanada just stopped functioning once his friend mentioned that.

"It's obvious that you are feeling lonely Gennichirou. You have a good job, a crazy roommate and a bright future. I know that and you know that. But we both also know that you are so emotionally stressed because you are letting that loneliness get to you. Do something about it. There is no way that you will find a woman by doing nothing. The Heavens won't open up and drop a woman in your arms Gennichirou. You have to fight for your happiness and get rid of that loneliness in your heart," Yukimura said smiling, but something in that smile made Sanada think twice about complaining to Yukimura again.

"I will consider your advice Seiichi," he responded slowly "I will be alright. It's the holiday season I guess. Christmas is only a week away."

"How will you spend your Christmas holiday Gennichirou?" Yukimura inquired softly.

"With my family!" was Sanada's answer.

* * *

><p>At "Kenza" store

Fay was in front of the glass door of the store with her hands

crossed looking not very happy!

"You are late," Fay said irritated.

"I am so sorry Fay. But I got held up at work. Please open. It's cold." Aya pouted. She didn't mean to be late but they decided to have a meeting as she was walking out of the building, so she had to turn back and attend the meeting.

"I will forgive you, only because you are singing tonight," Fay said and opened the door to let Aya in. "You could have called you know. I was worried. It's late and it's not safe to wonder|.." Fay stopped suddenly because Aya hugged her tightly.

"Thank you for worrying for me sweetie," Aya whispered softly to Fay's ears.

Fay hugged Aya back. "Of course Poo Bear, you are all I have," she whispered relieved that Aya was alright. "Now, let's get dressed," she smiled devilishly.

"Fay, the look on your face is scaring me," Aya said and followed Fay at the back of the store.

"You will wear this outfit," Fay said in her usual briskly way.

Aya stood shocked looking at the outfit. It wasn't extreme|It was|a jeans skirt! Aya never thought that she would be in a spot where she would not be able to escape. This was the devil's work she thought. "I hope you are not serious. Why would you get me a jeans skirt?" she inquired as normal as possible.

Fay grinned, "It wasn't me. Kumiko-san chose this outfit. So, you have to wear it. You wouldn't want to upset her right?" she gave the hanger to Aya. "Change!" she ordered.

Aya took the hanger and looked at the outfit, it was nice, it was a jeans skirt at knee-length with a purple/blue top. The top covered only one arm and was tight around Aya's body. She looked at herself when she finished dressing up and really loved the outfit. She was thankful that Kumiko had chose a jeans skirt for her. She turned around to look at Fay "Uwaahhh|You look gorgeous," Aya said happily.

"Thank you Poo, so do you," Fay answered smiling proudly. Fay always had a good sense in dressing, it came natural, she was a woman after all. _A gorgeous woman to be accurate;_ A little vanity never killed anyone she thought and giggled. She looked at the mirror in the storage room and was pleased with herself. Kumiko had given her a dress just below the knees; it was tight at the bust line and around her waist but it would fall slightly frizzy on the bottom part. It was black with red splashes here and there and the top finished with one of the arms covered. Fay was always beautiful and had a great figure that most women would kill to have. But this dress made her look like a Goddess.

"Oh! My gosh Fay, the dress is wonderful and you look|I would say extravagant, but still the word is not enough to match your beauty," Aya said with eyes wide opened.

"Thank you babe. Now let's get going because you will miss your turn and I don't want to miss hearing you sing," Fay said as she wore her coat.

After locking the store and walking towards 'VOX' Fay looked at Aya and smirked "You know Poo, Kumiko, gave me another outfit so you could decide between the two. It was a jeans and tank-top," she giggled at the look Aya gave her.

"You are joking right?" Fay did not answer. "Honestly Fay, I have trouble liking you right now," Aya said pretending to be annoyed.

"Oh come on Aya, do not be like that. I am only looking out for you. Who knows, you might meet the man of dreams today," Fay replied dreamingly, hugging Aya's arm.

"At 'VOX'? Do you seriously think I will find the man of my dreams in a place like 'VOX'?" Aya asked sighing at her friends antics.

"Why not?" Fay argued. "I honestly have a good feeling about tonight.

"Whatever." Aya rolled her eyes and continued walking.

* * *

><p>Back at the apartment

"Sanada, are you ready?" Niou called outside Sanada's room.

Sanada opened the door and glared at Niou, who smirked the moment he saw him, "Well don't you look dashing. Are you in the mood for some flirting?" Niou asked teasingly. He still enjoyed annoying Sanada to no end.

"Let's go." Sanada said dryly. He was in no mood to actually pay intention to his friend at the moment. He had made a decision. He would try and live his life to the fullest and give women the benefit of a doubt. There has to be someone only for me, and I will find that one person destined to be with me;_ he thought, before I lose my chance._ Yukimura's speech, no lecture, had that effect on him.

"Oh! How sad. You are ignoring me Gennichirou. But I assume that whatever Yukimura told you, it had some effect on you," Niou said walking beside Sanada "But you will never find a woman with that frown on your face." Sanada looked at Niou through the corner of his eye but Niou ignored him.

"Let's just have fun," Sanada said softly.

2. Chapter 2

I love the time and in between

The calm inside me

>In this space where I can breathe
I believe there is the distance
I have wondered

>To touch upon the years
Reaching out and reaching in
>Holding out, holding in

I believe this is Heaven to no one else but me
>And I'll defend it long as I can be
Left here to linger in
silence if I choose to
>Would you try to understand<p>

Oh the quiet child awaits the day
>When she can break free
From all the clings like desperation

>Oh mother don't you see I've got to
Live my life the way I feel
is right for me
>You say it's not right for you
But it's right for me

I believe this is Heaven to no one else but me
>And I'll defend it long as I can be
Left here to linger in
silence if I choose to
>Would you try to understand<p>

Aya was playing the piano and singing a song she had written a few years ago. She wrote the song when she was heart broken, but she never told anyone. She couldn't understand why she had picked this song for today's show.

Sanada and Niou had entered the club just as Aya started singing her song. Both were mesmerized by the song and by Aya's performance. Sanada had never heard a more beautiful voice like the one he was hearing at that moment, he felt his heart skipping a beat. He felt like he was at float. Niou thought that the girl singing was good but what caught his eye was a dark haired woman walking gracefully towards the bar.

Aya stepped down and sat to the table she shared with Fay. She felt so good after all the cheering; her song was a good choice. She sipped on her Campari and looked around the club. Fay came and sat at the table near her.

"That song was fantastic! When did you write it Aya?" Fay asked excitedly.

"I wrote that song a long time ago." She said happily "I never told anyone though, it was after my heart was broken." She smiled.

"Oh! You should have told me and Arisa. We are your best friends." Fay pouted and then started to laugh.

* * *

><p>"Sanada lets go sit somewhere." Niou walked of to a table he had spotted a while ago.<p>

"Where are you going Masaharu?" Sanada asked following his silver haired friend.

"Right next to your angel." Niou smirked and winked at him as he sat on the table opposite Fay and Aya. Sanada was speechless looking ever so intently at Aya.

"I have a feeling someone is looking at me." Fay said looking around.

She stopped when her eyes met a pair of pure green eyes on a handsome face, although he looked familiar. "I think I found the guy that is looking at me A-chan." She said slowly and tilted her head to the direction of the man who was looking at her.

"Ummâ€|Oh! I think I have seen him somewhere." Aya said cheerfully. Maybe a little bit too cheerfully. She then looked to his side saw his friend looking intensely at her. She flushed and looked away. He looked so handsome.

"What's wrong A-chan?" Fay asked "Is everything ok?"

"Yeah, it's just that his friend is looking at me so intensely I am just a little embarrassed." Aya reasoned peeking at Sanada with the corner of her eye.

After a while of eyeing and staring contests, Niou decided he had enough of the games, so he got up from his chair and headed towards the girls.

"Hello ladies." Said a voice teasingly.

"How may we help you?" asked Fay indifferently.

"How cold!" the man said with a smirk "My name is Niou Masaharu and I would like to know yours."

"I see." Fay looked at him from head to toe "Well, you have to earn it." She replied gracefully.

Niou bent down to reach her ear and whispered "The game is on." Then turned and left.

"Why did you go to their table?" Sanada asked Niou.

"I needed to get a better look at your angel." Niou said with a shrug.

"Better look at my angel?" Sanada repeated annoyed by the comment "She is not my angel." He said bluntly.

"She reminded me of someone and I needed to be sure."

"And?" Sanada inquired a little bit to fast.

"She was the girl that you said was checking me." Niou said with a devilishly smile.

"He was the guy that you said was checking me out the other day." Aya said surprised "I told you he was not checking me." She pointed her finger at Fay.

"Well, maybe I was wrong. Should we call them to our table?" Fay winked at her friend and smiled.

"Do you think he is the kind of guy that would need an invitation?"

"I hope not." Fay said and eyed Niou carefully.

"Let's go Gennichirou." Niou said as he stood up taking his drink and walking to the girls table "Ladies." He sat at the chair near Fay. "This is my friend Sanada Gennichirou. He doesn't like to talk much but likes to act." Niou said with a smirk and winked at Aya.

"Masaharu! Behave." Sanada said sternly "May we join you?" he asked Aya. She nodded and he sat next to her.

Fay narrowed her eyes at Niou "I don't think we invited you here." She told him lightly.

He smirked "Your friend did." He said eyeing her in return "You know, it takes two to play this game and I am a player."

"So am I." she replied indifferently.

"So I see." Niou smirked.

"Nice to meet you Sanada-san. I am Tigger. Sorry to use my nickname, but it's for safety reasons." Fay said politely.

"Nice to meet you too. I don't mind, just be careful!" Sanada said "Nice to meet you too!"

"Oh! Sorry I am Sawada Aya." She said sheepishly.

Sanada looked at her carefully, she had blushed. He thought she looked cute. Maybe this was his chance to happiness. "You have a great voice." He said softly.

Aya looked at him and flushed furiously "Thank you Sanada-san." She stuttered. What was going on she thought, she was stuttering and blushing. He was making her feel all fuzzy inside.

Fay looked at her friend and smiled.

"They looked good together don't they?" Niou whispered in her ear "I like your nick. Tigger!" he giggled "It sounds so wild." He resumed to drinking his beer.

Fay's heart skipped a beat when he had come so close to her. His hot breath triggered a line of shivers through her body. He was definitely playing with her. She was mesmerized by those green eyes. He was like her. Wild! She hadn't been wild for a long time and the feeling was so nice, she thought that maybe it was time to let go of her seriousness and live a little wild.

__**After a while when they had talked about all kinds of things they went talking between them selves each couple.**__

"So you are a journalist?" Sanada asked "I own a small Law firm with Niou."

Aya looked at him surprised "He doesn't look like a lawyer to me." She said plainly "He looks creepy!" she shivered looking at Niou who was talking to Fay.

"Yeah. He gives that impression to everyone." He smiled "Have you

ever thought of singing professionally?"

"That's my dream. But it's a hard road to walk on. I am doing my best though!" she reply sweetly "And you? Why become a lawyer?"

"I don't know really why I chose this profession." Sanada looked at her "Maybe it's because I like helping people who have their share of misfortune." He sighed "There are a lot of people that need help."

"Yeah. We live in difficult times." She said shyly. She could actually carry a serious conversation with this guy. That was a new development in her life. She always thought that men didn't care about serious conversations with women. That's why she always tried to keep her socializing with men as less as possible.

"So do you live in Tokyo?" Sanada asked shyly. Shy, that was something new for him. He always thought of himself as a straight forward person. Shyness was a new feeling he was experiencing.

Aya blushed at his intense look "Yes. We moved from Chiba 2 years ago. I live with Fay. Ooops!" she smiled sheepishly bring her right hand to cover her mouth "I guess she wouldn't mind if you knew her name." she stuck her tongue out and smiled sweetly at him.

Sanada blushed the moment she smiled at him. His heartbeat started racing in wild speeds "I hope she doesn't. I will not tell Masaharu though."

"Do you live together?" Aya asked out of the blue

"Yes." Sanada replied meekly. "Why do you ask?"

"Ummm you just called him Masaharu. So, I thought you must be very good friends. Maybe even living together." She tilted her head "How is it living with him?"

"Niou is Niou!" Sanada sighed "Its ok I guess. I am used to his antics." He said with a small smile.

"I see." She said "Do you have any hobbies apart from your work Sanada-san?"

"I play tennis. Occasionally."

"Tennis?" she said cheerfully "I always liked tennis but was never good at sports, just music. I also was one of the best students at school and did some tutoring at our school. Fay and Arisa use to call me 'Tutor girl'." She laughed brightly.

His smile widened seeing her laughing so briskly. He could fall in love with her in a heartbeat he thought, but he didn't want to rush into things. It was too early. But everything about her was so mesmerizing, from her smile to her whole being. He was amazed that such a beautiful creature existed and was free for him to pursue.

"Sanada-san, would you excuse me for a moment please?" he heard her ask so sweetly, pulling him out of his train of thoughts. He smiled and nodded.

"Thank you." She said and got up.

"Now. It's just the two of us. Those love-birds won't disturb us." Niou said looking at Fay with a devilish look

"I see you still didn't get the hint." Fay said eyeing him dangerously "I am not interested."

Niou chuckled "Why are you lying to yourself? I do peak your curiosity." He smirked "I can see it in your beautiful eyes." He said slyly.

Fay rolled her eyes "You really need to do better than that. Those lame phrases won't even get you a date, let alone my name." Fay said to him with a smirk. She then picked her drink and took a sip, all the while she was looking at him through the corner of her eye. He was looking at her with a grin on his face. What a beautiful combination, silver hair and stunning green eyes that pierced through her heart.

"Are you going to keep ignoring me?" he said playing with a strand of her hair. She has beautiful hair he thought. She was a very interesting young woman. A work of art. A beautiful face, a great figure and a perky personality. Just the type of woman that would keep him interested. "If you ignore me any longer I will kiss you in front of everybody." He whispered at her ear.

Fay shivered at the closeness "You should cut the bad boy act you know. I can see right through you." She turned and looked at him grinning.

"Well. Since you have figured me out you wouldn't mind if I do this." He said and licked behind her ear.

Fay froze on the spot. Was he for real. Did he justâ€¦

Fay felt her body riseâ€¦.She looked at her left and saw Aya smiling sweetly at her.

"Would you excuse us for a moment, please?" Aya said shyly at Niou. He eyed her carefully and then with a smirk "Of course." He nodded.

"Thank you." Aya said nodding "Let's go Tigger!" Aya pulled Fay to the restroom with her.

* * *

><p>At the restroomâ€¦._

"Ok. What just happened?" Aya asked giggling.

Fay was still stunned "Iâ€¦I don't knowâ€¦Weâ€¦.we were teasing each other and heâ€¦.he suddenlyâ€¦.." she shivered at the thought.

Fay blushedâ€¦.then turned red from angerâ€¦How could he do that to her in publicâ€¦.She had just met himâ€¦..They were only teasing each otherâ€¦She was furious...She walked to wall and stabilized her bodyâ€¦she was shaking!

"Oh my gosh Fay. I think he managed to reduce you into a mush of gooh in less than an hour." Aya said laughing hard looking at her friend being in that kind of state.

"It's not funny!" Fay said eyeing Aya "I will get back at him." She said pulling herself off the wall she was leaning "He just took by surprise, that's all!" Fay said looking at the image of herself grinning on the opposite mirror-wall.

"Ummâ€|that I want to see." Aya said amused "What do you have in mind?"

"You'll see." Was all that Fay said before she walked out the door heading back to their table. Aya followed her with a big grin plastered on her face, when Fay was this way it always meant trouble.

Fay stopped a few meters before they reached there table "I need a favor." She said pleadingly.

"What do you want?" Aya replied cheerfully.

"I want you to sit with him."

"Ah...okâ€|" Aya smiled and walked past Fay. Fay looked at her friend with no expression. Aya halted "WHAT?" she screamed making a few heads turn towards there direction.

"Did it take soooo long to register in your mind?" Fay said trying to hold back her laughter. The look on Aya's face was priceless. Damn, where was the camera when you needed it she thought.

"I want you to sit next to him." She repeated "I want him to get annoyed."

"Is that your master plan?" Aya said not very happy "It sucks!"

"Just sit with him for a while. He won't do anything to you. You are not his type." Fay said gingerly.

"Ok ok. But you owe me Tigger." Aya said with a defeated look on her face.

"Fine. Fine. I owe you. Go. Now!" Fay pushed Aya towards the direction of their table.

"Sorry for taking so long." Aya said as cheerful as possible and sat beside Niou."

"Hope we didn't miss anything important?" asked Fay smiling at Sanada, as she sat next to him.

Both men were taken aback by the sudden switch but didn't say anything.

"Do you like it here Sanada-san?" Fay asked politely, she wouldn't want to get on his bad side she thought. He looked soâ€|..big!

"It's alright. It's a change." Sanada said dryly.

"Do you like sports?"

"I play tennis. Occasionally." Dã@jÃ vu he thought and pouted.

"I am very sorry to take Aya's place. But I need to teach your friend a lesson." Fay said sweetly "I am sure Aya would like to sit and talk to you but I asked her to do me this as a favor." â€|..Why was she explaining herself to him, she thought inwardly.

"You don't have to explain yourself." He said coldly.

"Fine!" said Fay annoyed at his antics "You don't have to be so rude." She muttered.

"You don't mind me sitting here do you?" Aya asked Niou smiling sweetly.

"No. Although I'd rather have your friend sitting beside me." He said indifferently sipping his vodka.

"Oh! Are you always this forward?"

Niou eyed her raising his eyebrow "Do you want an answer to that question?"

"No. I think I am covered!" Aya said moving in her chair uncomfortably.

"Why did you change seats?"

"Ummâ€|.that's because Tigger didn't want to sit with you anymore." Aya said laughing.

"Is that soâ€|..." Niou said looking over at Fay and Sanada sitting together. They looked like they were ignoring each other. He smiled "Let's go!" he grabbed Aya's hand and left the club with her.

"HEYâ€|WHERE ARE YOU GOING WITH MY FRIEND!" Fay yelled when she realized what had happened. She got up from her seat and before she started to run behind Niou..

"MASAHARU!" Sanada yelled.

Fay was startled at the power of his voice. Allot of people turned around and looked at them. Fay was looking at Sanada with a shocked look on her face. Who were these people that they have crossed paths with; suddenly she just sunk back to her chair defeated "I hope that idiot friend of yours doesn't do anything to her." Fay said angrily once she got back her posture.

"Don't worry. Niou maybe many things but he wouldn't do anything bad at her." Sanada said seriously, as her comment offended him.

"Yeah right!" she crossed her hands and looked away.

"He probably just took her outside only to annoy you."

Fay turned and looked at him stunned "You seem to be very calm considering that he ran off with your potential girlfriend." She said frowning.

"You shouldn't frown like that. It makes you look ugly." Sanada said nonchalantly.

What? He thought.

What? She thought.

They looked at each other in surprise and started to laugh. The tension had somehow lifted from their shoulders and they were relaxing, acknowledging each others presence.

"So, Sanada-san; tell me a bit about Niou?" Fay said as she stopped laughing. She was very curious to find out more about the guy that had captured her interest so much.

"Well, Masaharu and I are lawyers." He said trying to stop himself from laughing. He just felt so relaxed. Maybe getting to know her wasn't a bad idea, since she was his potentials girlfriend best friend.

Fay thought she heard wrong. He was a lawyer? That trickster of a man was a lawyer? She screamed inwardly "Did he did you just say that...that Niou-san is a..."

"Lawyer. Yes!" Sanada said and shrugged "We own a small law firm."

"That is awesome. But I would never picture him as a lawyer." Fay said smiling.

Sanada looked at her and thought that she was rather beautiful. "Most people can't picture Masaharu as a lawyer."

"You don't talk much. How come you are a lawyer? Lawyers are supposed to speak. Allot!"

"I talk." Sanada said dryly "more than I use to anyway." He sighed. He had changed, he was talkative and would express some feelings but when he was around women, he would close himself in that lobster shell he had creative since he was a child. There was no changing that.

"Hmm I wonder how you tolerate him being so wild." Fay asked with her curiosity increasing every minute.

"We went to the same Junior High, High and University together. I've known him all my life. I am used to his antics anyway." He said sipping on his drink "Dã©jã vu" he muttered more to himself than to anyone around.

"Huh?"

"Dã©jã vu. I had the same conversation with Sawada-san." He sighed.

Fay didn't know what to say anymore. That man confused her. First he

was grumpy, than friendlyâ€¦|..sort of speak anyway!...and then grumpy again. She just relaxed and leaned back at her chair looking towards the entrance of the club. Whatever he told her about Niou, she still didn't trust him alone with Aya.

* * *

><p>Outside the clubâ€¦|._

"Heyâ€¦|.." Aya tried to free her hand from Niou's grip.

"Relax, will you." Niou said to Aya pulling her closer to him "I wouldn't try and do anything to a girl as clueless as you." He said indifferently.

"Clueless...who do you think you're calling clueless?" she said angrily and pulled her hand freeing herself "Just because I am not as sly as you that doesn't make me clueless." She said pointing her finger at him.

He looked at her stunned for a split of a second and then regained his posture "You better not point your finger at me. I bite." Niou shrugged "Come on. I need to get some chocolate. My blood sugar is low." He said smirking.

Aya rolled her eyes "Honestly you are a weird person."

"That didn't stop you from coming with me." Niou grinned and put his arm around Aya's shoulder.

Moving away from Niou, Aya eyed him carefully "You better not put your arms so freely on me. I'll rip them off." She said walking towards the convenient store at the end of road "And for your information I didn't come with you. You kidnapped me.

Niou looked at her amusingly; she was fiery under that innocent looking girl she presented to people around her. Interesting, he thought. He would enjoy teasing Sanada about his new found 'amore'; how would Sanada cope with a woman like her; he just had to wait and see.

"Will you get moving?" Aya yelled and startled Niou out of his reverie.

"Coming ma'am!" he grinned at her pouting face "You shouldn't pout. It makes you look ugly." He said laughing loud and tapped her nose "Baaka!".

Aya just looked at him and went on her way for the convenient store again.

* * *

><p>In the clubâ€¦| _

"Where are they?" Fay thought out loud.

"Maybe we should go look for them." Sanada said worriedly. He knew that Niou was just trying to provoke Fay, but they were gone quite a while now.

"Yeah. Let's go. No matter what you tell me about Niou-san I still don't trust him alone with Aya." Fay said picking up their stuff.

Sanada paid for the bill and they both exited the club.

"Oh! I forgot to pay." Fay said suddenly.

"It's alright. I paid."

Fay opened her bag "Let me give youâ€¦." She said before she abruptly cut off.

"Do not insult me." Sanada said offended.

"I am sorry. I didn't mean to offend you. I justâ€¦.I onlyâ€¦..Iâ€¦." she looked down defeated and embarrassed.

Sanada sighed heavily "It's alright. I am sorry for snapping at you like that." He felt an arm come around his shoulders.

"Where are you going with my lady Sanada?" Niou smirked devilishly.

"Get your hands off me Niou."

"So where are we going?" Niou said briskly letting go of Sanada.

"We are going home." Fay said walking over to Aya "Are you alright?" she asked worriedly.

"Yepâ€¦Why do you ask?" Aya questioned, Fay only looked at her raising her eyebrow "Ohâ€¦Ohâ€¦..thatâ€¦its okâ€¦we only went to the convenient store to buy some chocolate." She said laughing "Low blood sugar." She whispered and winked at Fay.

"Well, it was nice meeting you. Hope we see you around." Fay said sweetly and bowed to both men.

"Gennichirou, I think we should escort the ladies. It's very late." Niou rubbed his jaw looking at Sanada ignoring Fay.

"Its ok Niou-san, it won't be the first time we walk alone home." Aya said gingerly.

"Masaharu is right Sawada-san. We will walk you." Sanada said bowing to the girl. Aya turned red at his gesture.

"Alâ€¦.alright. Lets go then." She smiled sweetly. Sanada's heartbeat increased rapidly. Niou enjoyed the flustered look on his friends face. He made a mental note to tell Yagyuu about this.

They started walking towards the girls' apartment. Niou was walking beside Sanada and Fay beside Aya. Aya and Sanada were walking at very close proximity make light conversation.

Fay was fuming. She was beyond displeasure. How could he pretend to ignore her like that; why do you care so much she scold herself. She was walking mechanically lost in her thoughts; she shuddered feeling

a pair of hands curling at her waist. She stopped. She froze when she felt his lips on her neck.

"What? What? What are you?..doing?" she said startled

"Nothing." A voice purred near her ear sending shock waves thru her body.

Finally, when she came back to reality she pulled herself away and looked at him. She smiled serenely. Niou shuddered. They started walking fast to reach their friends as if nothing happened.

As they reach the girls apartment "Maybe we should change numbers." Aya said sheepishly smiling wholeheartedly.

"I agree." Sanada said smiling too "Would you give me your phone Sawada-san so I could make a call on my phone?" Sanada said blushing.

"Umm? yes, of course." Aya rummaged through Fays bag and handed Sanada her phone; she also gave Fay's phone to Niou.

"Why thank you Aya-chan." Niou said grinning.

"Aya-chan?" both Sanada and Fay asked looking at Niou grinning and Aya looking down embarrassed.

Niou handed the phone to Fay "Thank you very much princess. I hope her from you soon." he leaned and kissed her on the cheek, but before he could pull away she grabbed the collar of his shirt and kissed him on his lips sensually. Sanada, Aya and Niou froze in place with Fay's sudden act. When she released him, she smiled at him seductively and left towards the apartment.

"Hehe?..I... should follow her. Thanks for a lovely night both of you." Aya said sweetly and bowed.

"It was our pleasure." Sanada said a little bit stiffly, feeling uncomfortable from the whole scene.

Aya bid them goodnight and followed Fay who was at the door waiting for her.

"Fay! I hope I can get a rain check on that kiss." Niou yelled grinning.

Fay looked up hearing her face. How?..? She turned and looked at Aya.

"I swear I didn't tell him." Aya said a little bit panicked by the look on Fay's face.

"Lets go." She said and walked in the building. Aya sighed and followed suite.

"Did Sawada-san tell you her name?" Sanada inquired curiously.

"Nope." Niou said putting his hands in his pocket "I heard her tell

you at the club." He winked.

Sanada sighed "It's bad to eavesdrop on other peoples conversations."

"Did you call that a conversation?" Niou said wryly.

"Yes."

"You were as thick as a brick wall Gennichirou." He sighed "That girl is very sweet on first impression but she has a fiery personality. You should try being more open and carefree with her." Niou muttered.

"â€|" Sanada didn't know what to say, Niou was right.

Niou looked at Sanada from the corner of his eye "You think too much." Niou smiled at him "You should lighten up, honestly. Everything will be much easier."

Sanada just nodded.

"Call her tomorrow. Ask her out."

"I will." He answered meekly "What are you going to do?"

"I don't knowâ€|.that woman elicits such sexual vibes only by her existence. She managed to make get me excited just with a kiss." He shrugged.

"I don't need to know such detail Masaharu." Sanada replied dryly.

"Heheâ€|Are you jealous Gennichirou?"

"No."

"Shy?" Niou grinned jokingly.

"Niou! I said no." Sanada exasperated.

"Fine fine. Besides we are home anyway. I am going to sleep. Long day tomorrow." He said entering the apartment.

"It's Sunday. What do you have to do?" Sanada asked removing his coat and shoes.

"Dinner with Yagyuu."

"Again? You saw him for dinner yesterday." Sanada walked to his bedroom door.

"I need to inform him on my new girlfriend." He answered with a wink "Goodnight Gennichirou."

"Goodnight."

* * *

><p>Back at the girls' apartmentâ€| _

Lying down on the couch of their small apartment Fay sighed audibly.

"What the matter Tigger?" Aya asked munching on some chocolate cookies she got from the store while in Niou's company.

"You knowâ€¦." Fay said and flopped on her stomach to look at Aya "I hate Winnie the Pooh!"

Aya looked at her surprised "Really? Why didn't you ever tell us?" she pouted.

They both laughed "I am sorry I didn't tell you. I don't think I ever cared since it was you and Arisa that was calling me Tigger." She shrugged.

Aya ate another cookie "You knowâ€¦I never thought you would go wild again. You had to see the look on both. It was hilarious." She said and put the box, empty now, on the table. "I was stunned too but they were frozen to the ground." They laughed again.

"Well, he needed a lesson. But it seems that he is always one step ahead of me." Fay sighed "Will stop eating all those cookies! How many boxes did you buy?"

Aya had opened a new box of cookies "Two boxes." She gave Fay her famous puppy eyes.

"Soâ€¦What did you think of Sanada-san, Sawada-san." Fay joked.

"Well," Aya closed the box and hug her big Winnie Bear "He's the first guy I could hold a serious conversation withâ€¦"

"Conversation?" Fay laughed "The man hardly speaks."

"Well, yeahâ€¦.that's trueâ€¦do you know they are bothâ€¦."

"Lawyers?" she winked "Yep, your 'prince charming' told me. I can't imagine Niou as a lawyer though." Fay said thoughtfully scratching the back of her head. They looked at each other and once again began laughing.

Aya stood up "I am very sleepy Tiggerâ€¦.I would love to stay at chat along about the crazy evening we had but I am tired." She hugged Fay at walked to her room "Sweet dreams, sweetie. Goodnight."

"Nighty nighty Pooh Bear." Fay turned on her back again. She felt sleepy too but at the same moment she couldn't sleep. She couldn't stop thinking about that night. Both men had made an impression on her. They were so different. Why was she feeling confused? There was nothing to be confused about; Sanada Gennichirou was a man of few words, too serious for her taste and yet too appealing, but he had clearly showed that he didn't like her very much. Niou Masaharu. Niou Masaharou, He was the kind of guy that could drive a woman to Heaven and than drag her down to Hell. A trickster hidden behind that baby-face mask with eyes that burned an undying green fire.

Fay shivered as she remembered his eyes on her. Then she shivered again when she remembered Sanada's firm voice. Two men. Two men that made life feel so unstable at this moment. She shook her head and got off the couch. She had to go have a hot shower to help her sleep.

3. Chapter 3

The morning came and found Fay staring wide-eyed at the ceiling with Aya hugging her while sleeping soundly. How did Aya get to her bed and at what time she did not know. All she knew was that she didn't sleep much last night.

She tried to unhook Aya off her and then got up to have a shower. She was tired. All she wanted to do was stay in bed and do nothing.

Coming out of the bathroom she saw Aya awake "Good morning," she said as she walked in her room towel-drying her hair "Please tell me, how on earth did you end up in my bed?..Again!" she laughed "What was it yesterday? Another alien came to abduct you?"

"Laugh all you want but my night-light went off. You know I can't sleep without a night-light. At least if I sleep with someone else it's different," she pouted.

"It's ok. I am just teasing you," Fay hugged her. It was true that Aya was scared of the dark and she always had a night-light on in her room and in the hall.

"Well, I have to go Tigger," Aya said and got off the bed picking up her pillow.

Oh yeah...another of Aya's unusual habits; Fay thought amused, _she always takes that pillow where ever she goes;_ _that girl was full of quirky habits_.

"Where are you going?" she inquired.

"Oh! I am working today!" Aya said boring "I have to help my editor. I'll go get dressed now," She said and left the room.

"Great," Fay said happily and plopped on the bed. She wasn't happy that Aya had to work, but at the same time she was happy because she was going to stay at home and relax.

After a couple of hours she decided to get online and chat with who ever were on in her list. She turned on the computer and entered to her email address to see if there was something important, but there was nothing. She connected to her messenger and waited to see who was on. Unfortunately no one was online, so she searched for someone to chat through the net.

After surfing through the net, forums and chat-rooms finding only a couple of decent people to chat, Fay closed her computer and went to the kitchen to cook something for her to eat for lunch. She decided to make Risotto since her choices were limited.

* * *

><p>"How come you asked me too meet with you on a Sunday?" Yagyuu asked sipping on his wine "You usually stay indoors and sleep on Sunday!"<p>

Niou laughed while playing with his fork "We met some girls yesterday," He looked at Yagyuu seriously.

"Oh! You have met girls before but you never called me out on a Sunday to tell me that," Yagyuu said nonchalantly.

"That'sâ€|true! But it seems that these girls are special," Niou said with a smile.

"Special huh?" Yagyuu asked him thoughtfully "Why so?"

"Well, for starters, have you ever seen Sanada fluster over a woman?" Yagyuu said nothing just sat back into his chair looking at Niou straight in the eyes.

"We both know the answer is no. But you should see him yesterday. He was blushing and smiling all night longâ€|and he made light conversation with her on the way back," Niou sipped on his wine "Don't look so surprised. He still was as thick as a wall, but she completely fell for that, or so it seems," he sunk back into his chair to be more comfortable.

Yagyuu looked at Niou mildly surprised "I guess I would like to have seen Sanada blush and smile while in the company of a woman. He hardly does that around us. I guess Renji would like to hear about this," he said laughing lightly "And how did he meet this woman."

"She sung at the club we went. I must admit that she has an incredible voice. She is also very beautiful."

"Beautiful? Your taste in women is very peculiar. For you to say she is beautiful, she must look awesome," Yagyuu pointed out.

"Wellâ€|.on the outside, she is the type of woman I like. Although she has a fiery personality under that innocent look she portrays, she didn't catch my eye at first glimpseâ€|Sanada though, he was rooted in the entrance looking at her sing as if he was struck by a lightning," Niou laughed "You should have seen him."

"Oh! I am sure he wouldn't appreciate you talking about him like that," Yagyuu said eating a bit of his food. "So she got his interest. Well I hope it turns out alright."

"I hope so too. He has been sulking for far too long. Burying himself in to work. He almost has turned into the person he was in Junior High," Niou said dryly.

"Tell me about _your_ woman."

"My womanâ€|.she is best friends to Sanada's girl. She is sexy. And wild," Niou replied with a smirk. "I tested her out last night."

"Masaharu, why do you tend to lead people on? You have a bad boy complex," Yagyuu said with a sigh "You seriously need to stop that. You have a tendency of been crude to people, for no reason at all. Are you so scared of getting emotionally involved with someone?" Yagyuu sighed again "Honestly, you are like Sanada. He tends to withdraw himself from conversations as much as possible and doesn't like to interact with people, for the same reasons you act crude towards them."

Niou just looked Yagyuu. Yagyuu Hiroshi was the only person that could see through Niou and had the courage to voice out his thoughts about him. Whatever Yagyuu was saying was true. He and Sanada were very much alike; no wonder they got along in living and working together. It was as if they completed each other on different levels. Sanada could never be crude towards people and Niou couldn't be antisocial.

"You are right Hiroshi. It's a way of defense for me to be like that. If the woman is no good than no harms done."

"Please do not talk like that about women," Yagyuu said seriously.

"I am sorry," Niou said bowing his head lightly "Anyway she is very smart and a player, but I am sure it's a defensive way to keep her from getting hurt."

"How did you understand that? I am sure she didn't tell you that in words while you were acting like a complete jerk."

"How do you know I was acting like a Jerk?"

Yagyuu sighed again "I know you Masaharu!"

"She didn't tell me in my face. We chatted over the net." Niou said emptying his glass of wine and refilling it. "Though she didn't know she was talking to me."

"I see and what did she say?"

"That she met a jerk yesterday, but she would give him another chance." Niou said meekly.

"That's good. At least she didn't turn you down." Niou eyed Yagyuu in return for his comment "You should behave the next time you meet. Show her the guy you truly are."

"I will," Was all that Niou said.

* * *

><p>Back at the girls' apartment.. _

"I am hooome!" Aya called from the entrance of the small apartment.

"Welcome back," Came the cheerful response of Fay as she bounced her way to meet Aya.

Aya eyed her carefully "What's with the cheery attitude?" she asked smiling.

"Close your eyes and come see." Fay took Aya's hand and led her to the small living room "Open your eyes." Fay said excitedly.

"â€¦" Aya was speechless "Wowâ€¦this is huge. We can't afford something like this," she said starting to feel her friend's excitement. Before her eyes stood a 2 meter Christmas tree full of garments and small Christmas balls and toys. All the presents they had bought for their friends and family were beneath the big tree. The tree looked so odd in there small room but it was so beautiful. Both girls were very happy and excited.

"A-chan close the lights and look," Fay said from behind the tree and turned the switch on as Aya turned the lights off.

Suddenly the room was filled with hundred colors coming from the lights on the tree. Both girls just looked at it hypnotized.

"Wowâ€¦this is magical." Aya said still looking at the tree "We cannot afford something like this. Where did you get it from?" she questioned.

"My parents sent me 150000 yen as a birthday gift. So I decided to do a little bit of spending," Fay smiled at her friend.

"Your birthday?" Aya looked at Fay shocked "That was in July."

"Yeah. Well there are known for the love they show towards their only daughter," she laughed "I don't care anymore Aya."

They both jumped on the small couch and gazed towards the tree. Fay popped a CD in the CD-player and the room was filled with Christmas carols, she turned the volume down a bit so she could talk to Aya.

"I am glad that you like the tree. It took me most of the morning and afternoon to finish it."

"It's great. It's really very beautiful. I can't wait to see the look on Kaede's face!" Aya said giggling.

"How was work?" Fay asked playing with a small pillow.

"Boring! I had to help my editor go through tomorrow's articles. I don't understand why I became a journalist in the first place, I hate this job!" Aya said grumpily "I am hungry. What did you make?"

"Risotto."

"You spend money on all of this and yet we are stuck we risotto?" Aya whined "You are unbelievable!" she pouted.

Fay laughed at Aya's antics. It was true; she had forgotten to buy something else while she was shopping.

"Come on Pooh, don't pout. It makes you look ugly." Fay said still smiling

"You knowâ€|Niou-san, said the same thing to me last night," Aya told Fay sheepishly.

"Really?" Fay asked surprised "How come?"

"Uummmâ€|I don't remember what we were talking about but he told me that and pinched my nose," Aya replied thoughtfully.

"Oh! Sounds like a different Niou. Are you sure?"

"Yesâ€|he also called me baka!" Aya replied nodding "its true he was different with me than with you.

BEEPppppp

"I think that's my phone," Fay said and got off the couch to fetch her phone.

Niou's number.

'_I hope I am not_

disturbing.

_I was thinking _

_maybe you would _

_like to go out with _

me for dinner?

"Niou is asking me out to dinner. What should I answer?" Fay asked looking at the message again.

"It depends. If you want to go out with him than go." Aya responded and replaced the CD on the player. Fay had been playing Christmas songs all week and she had more than enough of the Christmas spirit. She popped Sheryl Crow's new album on.

"Spoil-sport!" Fay complained jokingly. "I don't know if I want to go out with him so soon. I do want to give him another chance but I am afraid that he will behave like a jerk again."

"Well, he wasn't too much of a jerk when we were together," Fay muttered with her finger on her chin "Go out with him."

Fay typed her respond.

_Heyâ€|I don't think _

that going out with

you for dinner would

_kill me. So, ok. _

where do you want

to meet? XD

Let's go eat," Fay told Aya as she got up from the couch and went to the kitchen. Aya followed her and took her phone with her. She was hoping that Sanada would text her at some point and ask her out.

BEEPpppp

BEEPpppp

"You have a message too. Probably 'prince charming' will ask you out!" Fay giggled.

"Will stop calling him that." Aya frowned.

_~You shouldn't frown like that. It makes you look ugly~ _rang in Fays ears as she saw Aya's face frown. She blushed. Aya didn't notice anything as she was grumbling about the food while getting the table ready for them. Why would she blush over a comment made by a man who clearly didn't like her very much. She shook her head and read the text message she received.

Niou's number.

_How about 8 o'clock _

_tonight, we meet at _

the Tokyo station,

north exit. I will pick

you up with my car.

Fay's number.

Sounds great.

"Well, I am meeting him at 8 tonight. At the Tokyo station," Fay said a little bit excited.

"Great!" Aya exclaimed "Let's see who send me a message," she said and checked her phone.

Sanada's number.

Good afternoon! I was

_wondering if you wanted _

to go out with me tonight?

_That's if u have no other _

plans.

Aya's number.

"_Of course. I'd love to!_"

What do u have in mind?"

Sanada's number."

Love to?"

How about a movie and"

then something to eat?"

Fay's number."

Heheâ€|.sounds great."

Where do you want to"

meet?"

Sanada's number."

_At the __Asakusa Toho _

Gekijo movie theater"

8 o'clock."

Aya's number."

Ok :-P"

"Well it seems we both got dates for tonight," Aya said with a wink.

"Great. I hope they turn out to be nice guys!" Fay said munching on her risotto.

"Mmmm..." agreed Aya.

* * *

><p>At the boys apartmentâ€|. _"

"Well, I guess we both have dates for tonight," Niou grinned.

"Yeah," Sanada answered absent-mindedly looking at the messages he exchanged with Aya "Weird," He muttered.

"What?"

"I said 'weird'. Sawada-san's response was weird," Sanada said closing his phone. For some reason he had a funny feeling about his date tonight.

"To be honest, Fay was somewhat cheerful," Niou said lying on the couch.

"Cheerful?"

"Yesâ€|she was chatty and said she'd love to go out with me. Somehow that doesn't sound like her," Niou said closing his eyes.

"We don't know them yet Masaharu. Maybe there different from what we imagine," Sanada said and went to the kitchen to get him and Niou a cup of hot tea.

"Thanks." Niou said as he pulled himself up from the couch and drunk his tea.

"Well, I think we should get ready."

"You are right. I wouldn't want to be late," Niou said playfully.

"You are hopeless!" Sanada sighed and went to his room to have a shower and change. He got in the shower and let the hot water steam away his worries. He felt weird after his message exchange with Aya. _Well_, he thought, _I don't know her yet_.

* * *

><p>"Are you ready Aya?" Fay yelled from the hall.<p>

"I am coming, I am coming," Aya said hastily. She came running out of her room; she took her time getting dressed and was late. She stood in front of Fay with a happy smile on her face "Damn woman! You lookâ€|..sexy!" Aya giggled.

Fay was wearing a black long dress that covered her whole body. The upper part of the dress was of beautiful Lilac Kashmir and was strapless. That dress was a gift from Aya's mom when they graduated from University. Because Aya refused to buy clothes or more accurately dresses, Aya's mom bought it for Fay. She had pulled her hair up in a ponytail and had curled the ends. She put small garments to adorn the start of the ponytail. Last she was wearing a beautiful pair of heels purple in color to match the dress's top.

"Thanks. He said we where going out to dinner. So I thought maybe it would be a fancy restaurant," Fay winked putting on her black coat "I think he wants to impress me. So I should impress him too," She giggled "I see you are wearing jeans again."

"Well, we are going for a movie and maybe eat something later. So I dressed casually." Aya said wearing her winter jacket on and her woollen cap and scarf "Ok. Let's go. I will come with you till the station because I have to take the train to Asakusa for the theater."

"Great."

They were both walking and chatting happily. They didn't notice the odd looks they got from the people walking past by them. They did make an odd pair. One was extravagant and the other was average. But they didn't care. At that moment they were happy.

"Well, here you are. Good luck and have fun," Aya said gingerly and hugged Fay. Then left to take the train to her destination.

It was 10 minutes before 8. Fay was feeling nervous. _It's ridiculous to feel this way, when I have only met him once,_ she thought, and he managed to annoy her to no end with his antics. She felt a hand on her shoulder and turned aroundâ€¦

* * *

><p>Aya was in the train and was looking out at the scenery of Christmas illuminations decorating the houses. They looked so beautiful. Christmas was one of her favorite holidays. Aya arrived at the Village Theater 2 minutes past 8; thankfully the movie theater was close to the station.<p>

She looked around a bit to see if he was there waiting when suddenly she felt a hand on her shoulder and turned aroundâ€¦

Niou was driving slowly towards his destination, he wasn't in a hurry. Actually he had left a little bit early. He wasn't feeling nervous about this date. He chuckled to himself at the thought and looked at the cars watch to see the time. It was 20 minutes before 8. He decided to park his car and walk his way to the meeting point. As he strolled down the Avenue leading to the station he looked over some shops. He had to do allot of Christmas shopping, he thought. As came closer to the station and to the meeting point with his date he looked at his watch to see the time again. 5 minutes before 8. He sat at a bench near by and kept his eyes on the people to spot his lady. After a few minutes he spotted a single figure looking around as if she was looking for someone. ~_Bingo!~_ he thought, and got of the bench and approached the figured. He tapped her shoulder and she turned to look at himâ€¦

Sanada was in his car, swearing under his breath. He took his time to dress up and now was late. He drove as fast as he could, not wanting to get fined or anything. He hated being late for dates, he hated being late when meeting with clients too. He looked at the car's watch, 2 minutes before 8. He had to hurry. After a couple of minutes he reached the parking area of the station. He got out of his car and rushed to his meeting point with Aya. As he reached closer to his destination he kept looking around to find his lady. He looked at his watch, 5 minutes after 8. He swore again, loudly this time and as he turned around, his gaze fell on the back of a lone figure standing by the trees near the sidewalk. He rushed towards the figure and tapped on her shoulder as he reached her. She then turned around to look at him in up surpriseâ€¦

"You?" said Fay wide-eyed.

"You!" Aya exclaimed surprised.

"You!" Sanada said not believing his eyes.

"I thought it was you!" Niou giggled.

* * *

><p>"I am sorry! But there must be some kind of mistake." Fay said once she gained her posture "Is this some kind of sick joke?" she exclaimed angrily.<p>

"I am sorry. But Iâ€¦could you please tell me your number?" Sanada sighed disappointed.

"My number?...Why?...I got a message from Niou to meet him at the north exit entrance at 8," Fay responded annoyed.

Sanada sighed heavily "I send that message to Aya, but for some reason you got it instead."

"You are joking, right?...Oh!..." Fay stopped as if she remembered something important "Oh my gosh! Noâ€¦did we?" she muttered to herself.

"What?"

"Me and Aya have the same phone the only difference is the color. But I guess in the dark it wouldn't have much difference. We gave you the wrong numbers," She sighed and put her hand over her eyes.

"So it seems," Sanada said dryly "Well, since you are all dressed up I guess we should go to the restaurant I have booked," He said gesturing for Fay to follow him.

"I guess we could have a quiet dinner," Fay moved towards Sanada feeling a bit disappointed. Apparently she was nervous for not reason. She was stuck with Sanada for the rest of the night. She sighed again.

Sanada's thoughts were pretty much on the same wave length as Fay's. He felt very disappointed to be stuck with Fay and miss the chance to go out with Aya. Well, he could try relaxing with Fay and see if he could open up a little, so he wouldn't be as stiff as a wall, when he did go out with Aya. He really disliked the fact that he had to do this with Fay.

They got in the car and drove to the restaurant that Sanada had booked.

* * *

><p>"What are you doing here?" Aya pointed her finger at Niou surprised.

"I told you not to point your finger at me," He said and bit lightly her fingertip laughing.

"Hey..." Aya slapped his shoulder playfully when she registered what he had done.

"You girls gave us the wrong numbers," Niou said giggling.

"That's not possâ€¦.Oh!...Noâ€¦!," Aya said as she realized how true Niou's words were "Sorry!" she said putting her tongue out and scratching the back of her head "You see me and Fay have the same phones, the only difference is the color. I guess that we didn't notice yesterday," Aya laughed at the incident "How come you figured out it was me here?"

"'_I'd love to'_ I don't think Fay would have said that to me so freely. She is perky but she would be a bit stiff around me. You on

the other hand, are both serious and carefree at the same time. How do you manage that?" He said smiling.

"I don't knowâ€¦it's the way I am I guess." Aya smiled sweetly.

"Hmmmâ€¦I guess," Niou said thoughtfully eyeing Aya carefully "What movie should we see?"

"Uummâ€¦What would you say if we saw 'Die Hard 4' ?" Aya said cheerfully. She felt a disappointed not seeing Sanada waiting for her, but she didn't want to spoil a nice evening, so she just brushed her disappointment off and smiled at her companion.

"Good choice. I never would have thought that you might want to see that sort of movie," Niou said meekly. He wasn't very disappointed at how things had turned out; he had a vague idea of the misunderstanding that occurred with the exchange of phone numbers. He didn't tell Sanada about it because he thought that maybe he could relax with Aya and maybe she would help him with Fay. He never asked help from anyone except Yagyu and Sanada. But this was different.

"Of course," Aya said cheerfully "Me and Fay have watched all 3 movies together! She wanted to see No 4 too," She pulled her tongue out again.

"Hmm. I might bring her then, next time!" Niou said sweetly. _She is very sweet_, he thought.

And they made there way towards the queue to get their tickets for the show.

* * *

><p>Fay was feeling very weird being in a car alone with Sanada. She never thought her date would turn out to be this way. How did they give the wrong numbers to the guys, was beyond her. She looked to her right and saw Sanada driving thoughtfully. She wondered what he could be thinking.<p>

"May I ask what are you thinking?" Fay looked at him and smiled sheepishly.

Sanada looked at her "Nothing really," He said sternly and returned his focus on the road.

"I am sorry," Fay whispered and turned her face to the window on her side.

Sanada looked at her once again and sighed. He had reserved the restaurant for tonight from the morning. He wasn't sure if Aya would go out with him but he wanted to be sure to have a reservation at the best restaurant in Tokyo. He was never a person that would go through wild expenses or eating at fancy restaurants, but for some reason, this seemed right. Now, he was going on his date with another woman, who disliked him. He turned his car at the end of the road and into a parking area.

"We are here," He said and got out of the car.

"Great. I get to eat with grumpy!" Fay muttered as she got of the car too, but before she followed Sanada into the hotel where the restaurant was she thought of something "Wait a minuteâ€¦". She took her phone out of her bag and dialed Aya's number.

"Hello?"

"Youâ€¦.Youâ€¦..I hate you Pooh!...This is all your faultâ€¦..You gave the wrong phonesâ€¦.You owe me BIG time for thisâ€¦!" Fay yelled over the phone.

"I am sorry Fayâ€¦.I didn't do it on purposeâ€¦..Do you think that I like not being with Sanada-san?" Aya pleaded over the phone.

"What am I going to do?...The man is a freaking iceberg!" she looked over at Sanada and she saw him look at her intensely "Oh my gosh he heard me," She whispered.

"Of course he heard you, baka! The whole bloke heard you! Pass him the phone, please," Fay walked over to Sanada and handed him her phone "Its Aya."

He took the phone from Fay "Hello?" he said meekly.

"Ah, hello Sanada-san, I am very sorry! It's my fault for giving you the wrong number. I hope you won't be mad at me," Aya said a bit embarrassed.

"It's alright. I am just a little disappointed," Sanada said as softly as he could.

"Me too Sanada-san. We could go out tomorrow if you would like?" Aya said sweetly.

Sanada blushed "Yes, of course. I'll call you tomorrow morning."

"Great!" said Aya excitedly, that made Sanada blush even more.

"Have a nice time," He whispered softly.

"Thank you Sanada-san. Have a good time too. Fay is a great person. If you talk to her I am sure that you will like her," Aya said sweetly "May I speak with her again?"

"Sure," Was his reply and handed the phone back to Fay.

"Tigger, behave. Please try and relax. Find out about him and I will find out about Niou-san. Ok?"

"Ok!" Fay pouted "By the way, where is he?"

"He is buying tickets for a movie. Now, have fun!" Aya said and closed the phone.

"Who was on the phone?" Niou asked walking up to Aya.

"Umm...It was Fay. She is not very happy about what happened," Aya

tried to be serious but burst out laughing when she remembered Fay's outburst.

"Care to let me in on the joke," Niou said smiling happily.

"Yeah...Fay was yelling about Sanada-san being thick as a brick wall and apparently he heard her," she said still laughing "I am sad that I won't be spending this evening with Sanada-san. I was most looking forward to going out with him," she added with a sadden expression "But I am happy to be with you too," she smiled cheerfully.

"You know, you are the only person I know with those mood-swings. How do you even manage is beyond me," he said and walked towards the popcorn booth.

"Hehe...That's what Fay always says," Aya followed him "I can change from happy to sad to happy again in no time," she giggled "Popcorn?"

"It's alright. I'll get them. What would you drink?" Niou asked while they were waiting in the queue.

"No. I will get the popcorn and drinks plus I owe you the money for the ti€|" she stopped when she saw Niou glaring at her.

"Do not insult me. I may not be a gentleman 100%, but I do have manners," He said and ordered their popcorn & drinks.

Aya was blushing slightly because of what Niou said. She didn't want to embarrass him. She looked at him and smiled sheepishly. It seemed to Aya that tonight he was more himself than he was yesterday. She looked at him carefully and noticed that he was smiling. _He has a sweet smile._

* * *

><p>Fay sighed and followed Sanada to the restaurant at the rooftop of the hotel. The hotel was luxurious, she didn't notice the name of it, but it looked like a 5 star hotel.<p>

They walked out of the elevator and into a big luxurious restaurant, with ancient Greek columns adorning the interior. It had royal colors of red and gold everywhere. Fay looked around stunned by the beauty and the luxury. No one had ever taken her to such a place.

"May I help you sir," A man dressed in a black suite asked Sanada.

"We have a reservation by the name Sanada. For two people," Sanada said and put his hand at Fay's back and pushed her softly to take a step forward. He rested his hand at the back of her waist as light as possible, like a true gentleman.

"Mr. and Mrs. Sanada right?" the man asked checking the reservation list on the pod in front of him.

Sanada and Fay both blushed. He then took his hand away "Would you please show us to our table," He coughed.

Fay and Sanada sat at their reserved table. Fay took another look around the luxurious rooftop restaurant. She was speechless. She looked at Sanada and wondered about this man. He confused her to no end.

"Why did we come?" Fay asked softly.

Sanada looked at her "They would have charged me for the booking anyway," He said shifting uncomfortably in his chair "Besides you have dressed up so beautifully, it would be a shame if we didn't come," He coughed and looked away with a tinge of pink coloring his cheeks.

"Oh! Thank you!" she said and blushed furiously. She never expected so much honesty from him. "Aya would have loved this place. Although we would have trouble to get her wear an evening dress," She laughed to break the awkwardness, He was different from all the other guys she had ever met, she thought looking at him going thru the menu.

She thought he was very handsome, in a very serious way! He seemed more relaxed since they met at the station. She could feel that he was trying his best to look social and polite. She looked at him one last time before she picked the menu in front of to take a look at it.

"What will you have?" he asked suddenly.

Fay jumped a little; she wasn't used to hearing such a strong voice.

"Well, everything looks delicious. I thinkâ€¦." She put her finger on her lips "â€¦.I will have, fried calamari with potato salad and green salad. Is that ok?" she said sweetly closing her menu.

"It's alright. You can have whatever you want," Sanada said closing his own menu and signaled to the waiter.

"Yes, sir. How may I help?" the waiter bowed politely.

"We would like to start with some shrimp appetizers and green salad. As main dish fried calamari and potato salad for my ladyâ€¦." He stopped abruptly. He blushed furiously, coughed, picked up his menu and opened it to hide his face. "For me, I'd like grilled salmon and a tuna salad." He said lowering the menu "Would you like some wine?"

Fay was stunned. No, stunned didn't describe how she felt at that moment. She thought she had heard wrong when he gave her order, but the blush on his face showed otherwise. She felt her knees weaken; she would have fallen to the ground if she wasn't sitting on her chair. No one had ever said something like that about her before. _My lady, my lady, my lady_â€¦kept ringing in her ears. She loved the sound of those two single words. She came back to reality when she heard him addressing her.

"Oh!..oh! Wine? No thank you, I don't drink. Water would be just fine," She said sheepishly.

"Alright, water then and a glass of red wine for me. As for dessert,

I will have some vanilla ice cream with strawberries. What would you like?" Sanada asked softly.

"The same," Fay answered smiling delightfully. She was feeling a bit uncomfortable because she liked the treatment she was getting. Despite his coldness and antisocial attitude, he was very polite and a complete gentleman. Then she thought of Niou. She was surprised that she wasn't thinking of him all this time. Sanada's firm voice startled her out of her thoughts.

"Would you excuse me please?" he said and got up from his chair. Fay nodded quietly.

* * *

><p>"Shall we?" he said to Aya as he handed her popcorn and drink.<p>

"Sure. Lead the way."

"Heheâ€|If I wasn't interested in Fay I would definitely go out with you," Niou teased Aya as they were walking to the theater.

Aya pushed him playfully "You wish," She giggled.

They entered the theater and took their seats. While waiting for the movie to start Niou threw some popcorn to Aya.

"Hey! You are supposed to eat it, not throw it," She threw him some too.

"Same goes for you," He said and threw another handful.

They movie started and they watched in silence. Both liked to be quiet while watching a movie and didn't talk until the end. When the movie finished and the lights opened, Niou stretched his feet and hands and looked at Aya. She looked quite happy and seeing her smiling face made Niou chuckle. He got up and extended his hand.

Aya looked up at Niou and then at his hand "Why thank you sir," She said giggling and took his hand.

Niou pulled Aya from her seat "I am glad to be of service miss," He said smirking "Do you want to eat something?"

"Sure. I wouldn't call popcorn food," Aya grinned and hip hopped cheerfully.

"Ok. Let's go get my car," Niou grinned at Aya's antics.

Walking towards the car, Niou's phone rang; he looked at the caller's ID and stayed behind to answer it. He talk for a while his eyes were watching over Aya, who now was trying to figure out which was Niou's car.

"Is everything ok?" she asked when Niou came to stand beside her.

"Soâ€|Did you find my car yet?" he asked looking at her amusingly.

Aya looked at him puzzled, she was under the impression that Niou didn't want to answer her question. She decided to brush it off and pointed to a red expensive sports car "That car has Niou written all over it." She then pointed at another car "But my guess is that the blue one over there is yours," She pulled her tongue at him and winked.

"Oh!" he said and laughed "So you think that the shabby car is mine because I cannot afford an expensive sports car like the red one?" he asked with his finger on his lips, looking at her carefully.

Aya nodded and walked to the blue car.

Niou watched her studiously "I guess you are right," He walked up to her and opened the door for her.

"Oh! You are true gentleman," She smiled and got in the car.

Niou closed the door behind her and thought about the phone call before he got to the drivers seat and started the car.

She wondered how two people like Sanada and Niou were friends. Why did her feelings feel afloat when being in the presence of each man? Niou would get her wild side to the surface, but Sanada, he was able to calm that wildness inside her, and make her feel relaxed and important. Why was she so attracted to this man suddenly? She found herself being impatient while she waited for him to return to their table. He likes Aya she thought sadly. She would never go her best friend's potential boyfriend. But the atmosphere was so romantic, and the music on the background was making her senses all fuzzy.

* * *

><p>Sanada was confusing her. Yesterday she thought he was rude at her yet to day he was such a gentleman. She pushed all her worries and thoughts away when she noticed him approach. She was going to have a good time trying to get to know him. For Aya's sake, she said to herself, yes, for Aya's sake.

Sanada returned to the table as the appetizers were being served. He looked at Fay carefully. She had the most beautiful eyes he had ever saw, maybe not in color, but they expressed so many feelings, as if she was speaking through them. He was mesmerized by her beauty. She was different from Aya. Aya had captured his mind with her incredibly beautiful voice and her sweet face, but Fay was capturing his senses. She was elegant, sexy and faultless like a newly cut diamond. He sat and they started on the appetizers in quiet.

They ate making small talk. They were both feeling more relaxed with each other's presence. Sanada smiled and laughed, which made Fay fluster. The man is exceptionally handsome when he laughs or smiles, she thought looking at him smiling delightfully.

After dinner and before they brought the dessert, Fay felt she wanted to test Sanada in dancing.

"I don't dance," He answered stiffly.

Fay gave him her most sweet puppy eyes but he looked away.

"That won't work on me," He said still looking away from Fay. He wouldn't be able to say no if he didn't look away. He was feeling all sort of feelings just looking at her eyes. He was a klutz when it came to dancing, and he didn't want to embarrass himself in front of her. People always said he was handsome and a gentleman, but Yukimura said that he lacked the elegance of a true gentleman.

"Oh, yeah?" was all that Fay said and got up from her chair. She took his hand and pulled him to the dance floor.

Sanada was flustered by her boldness, but complied quietly. He wasn't a man to say no for long to a woman.

They danced to the rhythms of the beautiful ball music. Fay smiled inwardly. She was a great dancer because she took classes in High school, but Sanada was as bad as Aya in dancing. She came closer to him and rested her head on his shoulder. This was feeling so nice and so right. _Why didn't I meet him first; I need his calm and warmth to make me feel loved;_ she thought while in his arms feeling his warmth surrounding her.

Sanada was overwhelmed by feelings under Fays touch. He was so engrossed in their dancing that when his thoughts traveled to Aya he stiffened and pushed Fay away from him softly.

Fay was startled by his action and looked at him, but he was looking else where. _Aya, _she thought. Then suddenly she stopped, she didn't want to dance anymore. She left him and went to the table they were sitting previously.

"Is everything alright?" Sanada asked her softly while he seated himself opposite her.

"Yes. Just got tired," She said with a fake smile "Do you mind if we go? I am not feeling well."

"Sure," He said and got up from his chair to help Fay.

Fay declined his help "I am fine," She said a bit abrupt, that startled Sanada.

* * *

><p>After about an hour of driving through the outskirts of Tokyo, Niou parked the car at a parking area. He looked at Aya and smiled lightly "We are here."<p>

Aya nodded and got out the car.

They both entered the restaurant Niou had brought them. It was a western style restaurant, the walls were all covered in heavy dark red drapes; there was a fireplace on the wall facing the entrance. Aya looked around astonished. The place reminded her of the interior of a British Castle.

"Soâ€|What do you think?" Niou looked at Aya grinning "Do you like it?"

Aya turned and looked at him with her eyes glittering "It's great!

It's really, really great!" she said brightly.

"I am glad you like it," He said gesturing towards a table near the fireplace "There is a table near the fireplace. Let's go."

They settled to the table and picked up a menu "Its all European style food. Wow! It's amazing!" Aya said happily looking through the menu.

Niou looked at her amused. He thought of Fay and her reaction if he ever brought her to this place, he winced at the thought that she might think he was cheap.

"Aya. Would Fay like it here?" he asked seriously and he nodded to the waiter.

"Of course. Although she doesn't look as a person to appreciate small and cozy restaurants, she truly loves them," Aya said placing her menu on the table in front of her.

"That's good to know," he grinned.

While they were waiting for their food to come, Aya was looking around the small Castle-like restaurant.

"You really like this place don't you?" Niou grinned looking at her amused.

"Yeahâ€¦I do!" she smiled sweetly.

"You know, Sanada doesn't like this place."

"Eehhh? Why not?" she asked surprised.

"What was Fay wearing tonight?" Niou asked instead of answering her question.

"Heyâ€¦what does that have to do with Sanada not liking this place?" Aya said puzzled.

"Hmm." Niou rubbed his chin "Well, Sanada likes traditional restaurants. He is very traditional. But today was an exception. He booked a reservation at the most expensive restaurant." He sipped a little bit of wine "I guess Fay was dressed accordingly when he suggested dinner, although she thought It was me asking her out."

"Ummâ€¦That still doesn't really answer my question, as to why Sanada-san won't like this place," Aya said half serious.

"I did answer, but you weren't paying attention to me," He chuckled "He likes traditional places and he loves traditional food."

"Oh!" was all that Aya said.

After eating their food making small talk they decided to stay a little longer, so they ordered coffee and tea.

"Aya, I would like you to call me Masaharu or Haru. I want us to be friends," He said in a serious tone of voice.

"Ummâ€|Sure. I'd love that!" Aya answer briskly.

"Great!" he smiled sheepishly "Would you mind if I ask you some questions regarding Fay?"

"No I don't. But I have some questions too," Aya said firmly.

"Fair enough," He sipped his coffee "What is Fay like?"

"What is Fay like? That's a very good question. Ummâ€|probably a nut-case," Aya giggled "I am just kidding," Niou just smiled at her comment. Seeing him so serious Aya continued trying to be serious enough "Fay, is a complicated person. She also contradicts herself a lot. Most people would say that she is a strong person because of the way she acts. But, that's not true. Fayâ€|she is vulnerable, she craves to be loved. You see, her parents never really cared for her. They used to give her everything but love. They would pay with money and gifts their love," She sipped her tea "I've known Fay all my life. She was always a bit snobbish towards people and she would treat them indifferently. But that changed as she grew up," She looked at Niou and smiled helplessly "This must all sound boring to you."

"No! On the contrary, it's very interesting. I like Fay and would like to get to know her better," Niou reasoned.

Aya looked at him straight in the eyes "You like her and want to get to know her you say. Than why did you come on to her so crudely?"

"Wellâ€|I have a defense mechanism towards people I don't know, so I don't get hurt in the process. Being crude is my face to the world, but this is the real me. The one with you tonight," He said seriously.

"You and Fay are very much alike," Aya commented.

"Don't you have a defense against strangers?"

"Ummâ€|To be honest, I don't know. But surely I might have one." Aya said thoughtfully.

"Would you mind continuing?" Niou asked interested to find more about Fay.

"Ok. Fay is a sweet and caring person towards her friends. She still doesn't care so much about what goes around in the world. She lives in her world, including all the difficulties and bumps on the road. As I said before, she craves to be loved. That's why she is most defensive when she meets a new guy. She wants to find a love that will brake her free from all her worries and despairs. She had a boyfriend that she really loved, but he cheated on her with his best friend. So you see he left her with a taboo. She believes she is not worthy to be loved by some guy," Aya paused to look at Niou's face. She was looking for some sort of expression but found none "After Fay caught him with his best friend she turned wild. Not that she wasn't wild to begin with, but during that year she had build up quite a reputation. Me and Arisa managed to calm her down, but sometimes you can see that her wild side wants to rebel. I hope she didn't give you

the wrong idea."

"Heheâ€|I am not going to lie to you Aya. But she did pass the impression that she is rather wild," He chuckled softly.

"Wellâ€|you didn't look like a saint either," Aya joked "You were rather sly."

"I guess you are right," He agreed nodding "So how do you think I should approach her?"

"Umm," She looked at him carefully "My advice is that you be yourself. I think she would appreciate that."

"I guess I could try," He sighed.

"Haru-san, were you ever serious about some girl?" asked Aya sheepishly.

"I think I was. I know that I have never fallen in love before," He answered softly glancing at the dying fire in the fireplace.

"How do you know you have never fallen in love before?" she asked puzzled "Sanada-sanâ€|Has he ever been serious about someone?" she whispered more to herself than to Niou...

Hearing her question he turned and looked at her carefully "Do you think you are falling in love with Sanada?"

Aya blushed furiously at his question "Noâ€|noâ€|noâ€|I was just wondering if he was serious about someone before. I don't know him. How could I fall in love with him," She argued.

"He was serious about one person back in University. Sanada is a very difficult person to be with. But she seemed to love him. Until one day she told him that she was getting married to someone else," He rubbed his chin thoughtfully.

"What? How could she do that?" Aya exclaimed a little bit too loud and Niou glanced at her. She lowered her head in embarrassment "Sorry."

"That's alright," He said softly.

"Is that why he is so cold to everyone?"

"No, that's just Sanada," He chuckled to lighten the atmosphere between them. The conversation had made both of them very serious, and he never liked to be that serious about anything, including relationships. But looking at Aya, he decided that he found a new best friend to confide in and hang out together "Since Junior High Sanada was always very serious and cold. Well, cold in human relationships not cold insensitive I mean. He is a very caring person in his own way. But never the less, up until today Sanada remains unapproachable. He was brought up in a very traditionally strict family. So he got educated to express as few emotions as possible. He has to be strong and stable. He has just started to melt down a bit, ever since we attended University together."

She looked at him smiling sweetly "Soâ€|do you think you are falling

in love with Fay?"

Before he could answer her question the waiter came "Sorry to interrupt, but we are about to close. It's already 2 pm. I am very sorry," He bowed and left.

"2 pm? How long have we been here?" Aya said disappointed at the intrusion.

* * *

><p>They walked to the car silently, he had paid for everything. He also did something that surprised Fay. He opened the door to his car and helped her in. She was feeling so bad for treating him like this after all the nice moments they shared, but she was confused over her feelings regarding him.<p>

They drove in silence. Sanada turned the radio on, Fay was looking out the window frowning.

"Don't frown. It makes you look ugly," Sanada said dryly.

"Why do you care if I look ugly or not?" Fay snapped and looked at him.

"I don't. You have a beautiful face why ruin it by frowning?"

"Because I want too," She retorted angrily.

"I don't know what happened, but if did or said something to offend you, I am sorry," Sanada said still looking in the road ahead of him.

Fay was stunned. _Sorry, he was sorry?_ _Of course he should be;_ she thought,_ he pushed me away while dancing._ What was she thinking, why was she getting all worked up over something as trivial as that, he was her best friends potential boyfriend. She felt helpless at that thought; she had started to fall for him. _But how; when; ~Don't frown. It makes you look ugly;~ _ that's when she fell for him, no one was so honest towards her before, not even her parents. Only Aya and Arisa, her best friends, and now this man. She looked at him and felt a thump in her chest. She looked away.

They arrived at the girl's apartment shortly. Sanada helped Fay of the car and walked her to the entrance of the building.

"I had a nice time," He said to Fay smiling lightly.

"You know. You should try following your own advises once in a while," Fay said dryly.

"What do you mean?"

She sighed "I mean, smile Sanada-san. Smile. You are a handsome young man, but you spoil that with your seriousness. Did you even know you have a beautiful smile?" she said looking up towards the sky.

"No, no one ever told me before," Sanada said blushing and rubbing the back of his head.

"Well you do. Oh!...a mistletoe!" Fay said with a light smile on her face. Sanada followed Fay's eyesight. They were standing under the mistletoe.

"Ironical. Are the gods mocking me?" she whispered.

Sanada heard everything she said. He looked at her. He felt his heart beating so fast, he thought she would notice how flustered he was. Without thinking, he leaned closer and reached for her chin. He pulled her face up, so he could look at her and bent to kiss her lips. He touched her lips as light as possible, but still managed to feel their velvety touch.

Fay was at a loss of words, when he kissed her. She felt like she was in Heaven. She looked at him straight in the eyes, she needed to see his reaction.

"Goodnight," He bowed and left.

"Goodnight," she whispered. The last thing she saw in his eyes was sadness. _Why; Why did he kiss me; He likes Aya; because of the mistletoe;_ with all those thoughts storming through her mind she entered her apartment and headed for the shower. She had to wait for Aya to come back.

* * *

><p>"Let's go. It's late," Niou got up and walked to the counter to pay. Aya just followed him.<p>

When they exited the restaurant Aya felt very cold and started trembling. She felt Niou's arm around her shoulder and turned to look at him.

"You are feeling cold," He winked "You are like a little sister to me, so don't worry."

They walked up the car and he opened the door for her again. In the car Aya watched him studiously.

"You never did answer my question," She stated.

"I was never going to," He retorted.

She tried to glare at him, but obviously didn't manage because he started laughing the moment he saw her.

After driving for a couple of hours, they finally arrived at Aya's apartment. He walked her up to the door like a proper gentleman.

"Well miss, I got you home safely," He said and kissed her hand.

"Heheâ€|you truly are a gentleman!" she said cheerfully. She looked up to the sky and her eyes caught the sight of a mistletoe right above them "Oh! I wonder who put that there?" she whispered.

"Put what, there?" Niou asked and glanced up where Aya was looking at

"Mistletoe," He chuckled "It seems who ever put it there planned on getting kissed."

Aya slapped his shoulder playfully "So what if they did. It's a nice thought," She giggled.

She froze one the spot when she Niou's lips on her forehead. She looked up at him "Whâ€|" he silenced her placing his finger on her lips.

"A kiss for my little sister! Thank you for tonight, I had fun. Let's go out again sometime," He smiled and walked away "Goodnight!"

Aya just looked at him bewildered and then walked into the apartment building to wait for Fay to come.

4. Chapter 4

****Bittersweet Life****

****Chapter 4****

"Fay..." Aya called out from the living room.

"Yeah...yeah..." Fay yawned tiredly and walked over to the couch. She plopped herself on the couch and looked at Aya who was trying to clean the room "What are you doing?" she asked curiously.

"Can't you see? I am trying to clean up the place and make this room look more presentable." Aya looked at her with her hands on her hips, "Don't tell me that you forgot what day it is today?" she asked exasperated.

Fay yawned again and stretched her arms above her head, "I know what day it is, but are you sure you call that cleaning?" she said nonchalantly "Because it seems to me that you are throwing all the garbage in one corner!"

Aya turned around and looked at the pile of magazines, books, clothes and other stuff that was out of there place which were all shoved in a corner. She sighed and sat on the floor opposite Fay, who was laughing loudly at the moment.

"Funny, very funny." Aya pulled her tongue out in annoyance.

"Oh come on... Aya... Don't be like that..." Fay said between laughter, "It's sweet that you are trying to clean up for Arisa and Yuushi, but lets face it, we both suck when it comes to housework!" She rested back on the couch and closed her eyes still giggling.

"Yeah... Well, we have to learn how to it properly at some point!" Aya retorted. She got up and walked to the kitchen. "Do you want some coffee?" she called out.

"Sounds great Pooh, thanks." Fay said still lying on the couch with a serene look on her face.

"I thought we decided not to use those nicknames anymore." Aya popped

her head out of the kitchen.

"Umm... Just an old habit I guess."

"What time are they coming?" Aya asked, walking back to the living room with two cups in her hands. "Here is your coffee," she said, placing the steaming cup on the table near Fay.

Fay opened her eyes and pulled herself to sit up. She took the hot cup and sipped it, letting the warmth of it fill her body. It felt like the warmth she had felt when Sanada had kissed her on the day of their faithful date. She blushed furiously at the thought of Sanada's lips on hers.

Aya looked at her and giggled, "Thinking of Haru-san?"

Fay jerked her head up and looked at Aya confused and embarrassed "Haru-san?"

"Oh... yeah... Sorry... I forgot to mention this before, but I call Niou, Haru-san. You know his name is Masaharu, right? So, Haru-san." Aya giggled.

Fay just looked at Aya bewildered. Was this the same Aya she had been living with; she thought to herself and said nothing.

"So, what time are they co..." Aya began, but was interrupted by the doorbell "Oh! Never mind, they are here." She smiled, got up and bounced to the door cheerfully.

Again Fay said nothing; rather she looked at her friend in sheer amusement.

Aya opened the door and threw herself in Arisa's arms, and then she hugged Kaede tightly and walked in the apartment kissing the little girl in her arms.

“Nice to meet you too.” mumbled a blue haired man carrying two suitcases.

"Need some help with that Yuushi?" Fay asked smiling sweetly.

"Nah... I am fine, but I could use a hug. I feel kind of left out." Oshitari Yuushi grinned and hugged Fay tightly. "We missed you. Sorry if we made you worry for us." he said softly.

"I am just glad you are all alright." Fay took one of the suitcases and entered the apartment.

Oshitari left the other suitcase and went out again only to return with a Santa Claus sack full of gifts. When he finally entered the apartment, Aya bounced to him and hugged him tightly.

"Yuushi come and sit. Do you want some tea?" He nodded to Aya and she went to the kitchen to make some fresh hot tea.

"So, how are you guys? Is everything alright with the custody?" Fay inquired looking from Oshitari to Arisa and back to Oshitari with great anticipation.

"I will go help Aya with the tea." Arisa kissed Oshitari on the cheek and got up to head for the kitchen. "Kaede, come here. Let's help Aya."

When they finally were left alone, Fay looked at Oshitari puzzled "What's wrong?"

"Nothing. There is something I need to tell you and you know how much Arisa likes to be discreet," he said softly.

Fay nodded "Yeah. Let me go get your tea." She walked to the kitchen. After returning she left on the table the cup with the tea and a plate with a piece of chocolate cake "Aya made this cake too."

"Thanks." He sipped from the tea, "I have found you a job at a friend's company. It's a managing position for a Marketing Department within the Atobe Industry Corporation." Oshitari looked at Fay and waited for a question, a squeal, some sort of expression but found none.

Fay had frozen on the spot when she heard, or at least thought she heard Oshitari telling her about a job at the Atobe Industries Corp. She blinked confused and looked straight in Oshitari's eyes.

"Did you hear me?" He smirked.

"The...the Atobe Corp.? Me? A job?" she muttered.

"Yes. Atobe is one of my best friends since my school days, and he told me that he was looking for a Manager in the Marketing Department. I remembered that you had done your major in Marketing and now you are studying for your Masters, so, I asked him if he would meet with you for an interview," he said finally and munched a bit of the chocolate cake "Mmm...This is not bad. Did Aya finally learn how to cook?"

"Yuu... YUUSHI THANK YOU." yelled Fay excitedly and lounged in to Oshitari's arms for a tight hug. "You don't know how difficult it is to get such a job."

"I know Fay." was all he said and smiled full-heartedly. "But there is one slight problem," he said and pulled away from her arms.

"What problem?"

"The meeting is tomorrow at some fancy restaurant in Shibuya, at 2 pm. But before that I have to go to the lawyer's office for my case." He pushed his glasses up his nose.

"So?" Fay looked at him.

"So, I need you to come with me to the lawyer's office first and then we will go to meet Atobe. You have to look presentable." He smirked "But I am sure I shouldn't worry, when it comes to that department." He chuckled.

Fay smiled cheerfully. She couldn't believe she was given the opportunity to hope about fulfilling her biggest dream. She never new

that Oshitari was acquainted to Atobe. She knew he attended Hyoutei High School, but not that he rolled through those circles. She was feeling very happy and excited, but she still had to get through the interview.

Later in the day, they all exchange news on what had happened in the last few months they hadn't seen each other and placed more gifts under their Christmas tree. The girls had also bought gifts for Sanada and Niou and they had placed them under the Christmas tree. They were both hopping that maybe they could spend their holidays with the boys, but they didn't want to neglect Arisa, Oshitari and Kaede.

As the night approached, all were too tired to do the cleaning so they left everything in the sink for someone to wash in the morning. Fay had given her room to Arisa and Oshitari for she had a double bed, so they fitted nicely with Kaede in the middle. Fay slept in Aya's room, on her semi-double bed.

"No snuggling, Pooh, alright?" Fay said quietly, yawning. "I need to make sure I sleep and have energy for tomorrow."

Aya ignored her comment and hugged her tightly. "Good night, Tigger."

Fay let out a sigh.

* * *

><p>Next Day

Fay got down quietly from Oshitari's car and joined him as they approached the tall building. She still wasn't sure why couldn't he just tell her to meet him later by lunchtime. Somehow she had the distinct feeling that he wanted her by his side as he talked to the lawyers. The case has turned much serious and she knew Arisa is not the type who would be able to handle the pressure.

"By the way" he said as they both walked into the elevator. "You look very nice."

Fay blushed. "I'm not sure if that's good or bad since I'm meeting my potential employer."

Oshitari chuckled, walking out of the elevator, followed by Fay. They walked across the long hallway and turned left at the junction. Finally after a while, they reached their destined office and Fay marveled at how rich and welcoming it looked. Walking in, they were greeted by a secretary and Oshitari informed her of his name and she asked him to wait.

Fay sat down on the chair and softly patted her skirt. She had chosen to wear a skirt up to knee length that was plain baby blue and a white sleeveless shirt underneath and matched with a velvety classic jacket. Accommodating her outfit were high heeled sandals.

"Fay, whatever happens please don't be nervous during the interview."

Fay looked up at him. "Are you sure you should be telling me this

Yuushi? You're more nervous now."

He chuckled, shaking his head. "I'll be fine."

"But, Yuushiâ€¦"

"Mishima-sama?"

Fay and Oshitari both looked up upon hearing her voice. Fay didn't know whether to be shocked, surprised, or embarrassed. It was Sanada Genichirou in front of her. She was shocked because he was there. She was surprised because she wasn't expecting him to be THE lawyer. Finally, she was embarrassed because she hadn't seen or spoken to him since the night he had kissed her.

Oshitari stood up. "Sanada, how have you been?"

Sanada shook Oshitari's hand and gave him a nod. In a second, he turned to Fay. "Mishima-sama, how are you?" he asked, offering her his hand for a shake.

Fay took it and felt dizzy just at the touch of his hand on hers. She had no idea that he was the one representing Oshitari. "Hello," she said, after finding her voice.

"Are you two acquainted with each other?" Oshitari asked.

"They went on a date."

Fay turned to the second voice that appeared and almost died of shock yet again. Not only was it Niou, but it was Niou in formal pants and a shirt with a tie loosely hanging around his neck.

Oshitari frowned, watching Fay. "Are you dating my lawyer, Fay?"

Fay turned to Oshitari and shook her head frantically. "Nâ€¦ NO!" she exclaimed, waving her hand. "I am not dating any of them! It was a misunderstanding andâ€¦ I didn't know they were YOUR lawyers."

Oshitari chuckled. "You're looking all flustered. Don't worry," he said, smiling at her. "I was only teasing and I've known these two since middle school so I'm not worried if you are dating any of them."

"Yuushi! I am not!"

Oshitari didn't say anything, for Sanada had interrupted his teasing and asked them to follow them into the meeting room.

The whole session had not been very pleasant for Fay. As the three of them discussed major issues in Oshitari's case, Fay was quietly watching the duo with confused feelings. _What is it about them? _She thought, studying them. _I have only recently met them and I'm getting such mixed feelings out of themâ€¦ why am I acting like a young girl?! _She shook her head listening to what was going on. She was impressed at how serious and professional Niou seemed during the meeting.

Finally, after what felt like hours it was over. They all stood up to

leave and exchanged thank you's and goodbyes. However, as Fay walked out of the door, she felt someone hold her wrist. "A moment please!"

She turned to find piercing eyes looking into hers. She hesitated, but nodded and told the rest to go ahead. Taking her hand back, she looked at Niou. "What is it?" she asked, trying to sound firm, but it was more of a quiver.

"First!" he said, moving his hand to her hair and with a quick tug, he removed her clip and allowed for her tied hair to go loose. "Never ever tie that beautiful hair of yours, it makes you look stiff."

Fay glared at him and moved away. "I thought you wanted to say something!" she snapped, bending down to pick her clip, but he put his foot on it.

"No."

"NIOU!"

He ignored her shout and held her upper hand, making her stand straight. "Will you go out with me tomorrow?"

Fay looked at him and frowned. "No, you had your chance but somehow it got mixed up."

He scowled. "It's not my fault that it got messed up!"

"!"

Niou let out a sigh and moved her hair behind her ear. "Look! Don't act all defensive! You were ready to see me! You even dressed up and I want to see you!"

"That! that was then." Fay said crossing her arms and turning her back on Niou. "I have to go now." She started walking, but he hugged her from behind.

"Your scent is driving me crazy," he whispered in her ear. "I will pick you up tomorrow at 8 pm. Sharp," he said, placing a kiss behind her ear. Then he just left her, standing alone in the middle of the room.

Fay tried to steady her breathing; she trembled a bit while walking to find Oshitari. That man drove her senses to the limit. He fascinated her in ways she never imagined. And then she came to a halt, Sanada was looking at her intensely. His eyes made her skin burn and she just wanted the world to disappear around them and fall into his arms. She looked at him and she remembered the kiss.

She blushed.

He blushed.

"Fay let's go. We will be late," Oshitari said firmly.

Fay was startled out of her thoughts and she looked at Oshitari who was waiting for her at the entrance of the office. Behind him she saw Niou looking at her as if he could see her most inner thoughts. She

rushed over to Oshitari.

"It was nice seeing you again, Sanada-san." Fay said not looking at him with a tinge of red over her cheeks.

"Our pleasure, Mishima-sama," He answered mechanically with no emotion in his voice what so ever.

Fay looked taken aback at his coldness, but then she directed her eyes to Niou who not very pleased with what he was seeing.

"Goodbye, Niou-san," she said sheepishly and left with Oshitari.

While in the car, Fay was looking outside at the landscape running before her eyes due to the speed of the vehicle. Her mind was running too, she was thinking of two men that had entered her life so suddenly and were now crumbling the foundations of her whole being.

"Sanada or Niou?" asked Oshitari out of the blue.

Fay who wasn't paying attention to Oshitari, but heard the question answered mechanically as if in trance "Sanada."

"I see." He chuckled. "You are in a mess my dear friend," he said looking at her.

Fay was startled out of her reverie and looked at Oshitari puzzled. "What?"

He laughed and parked the car in an underground parking, he shifted on his seat facing Fay. "I said you are in a mess!"

"What do you mean?"

He looked at his watch. "We have 15 minutes."

"What are you talking about?" she asked again annoyed.

"I am talking about you, Sanada and Niou. Not to mention Aya!"

Fay stiffened. "I don't know what you mean, Yuushi."

"Yes you do. Arisa told me all about your meetings and dates. Although I didn't know who they were until today." He looked at her seriously. "I asked you who you liked and you said Sanada. Now from what Arisa described, Aya is the one that Sanada should be dating."

"Why are you telling me all this Yuushi?" Fay asked exasperated and immensely annoyed. "I am supposed to have an interview to get a job. I should be calm." She hissed.

"You have the job." He snapped.

"What?" she looked at him wide eyed. "What did you just say?"

"I said you have the job. Do you have a hearing problem?" He took off his glasses and rubbed the bridge of his nose. "You are just having

this lunch with him only to meet with him, nothing more. I reassured him that you were the right person for the job."

"You know Yuushi. You are the only person that I can hate and love at the same time."

"Fay, before we go. This will be our only time alone to discuss your situation." He looked at her again. "Do not hurt your friend for the sake of a guy." He opened his door and got out.

Fay was shocked. She was speechless. Oshitari must have seen something in that awkward moment between her and Sanada. She panicked. She got out the car trembling. She almost tripped but he held her from falling.

"Oy! Fay, get a hold of yourself. I will not tell Aya anything, but keep in mind what I said. Nowâ€¦" He steadied her "take a deep breath. You will need all the wits you possess to keep Atobe on a leash." He chuckled and walked with her to the elevator that would take them to rooftop garden restaurant.

They sat on the table reserved for them and awaited for Atobe to show up. They ordered a couple of drinks and were chatting about everything else but their previous conversation.

"Sorry I am late."

Oshitari got up from his chair and hugged his friend Atobe. "Nice to see you Atobe." He then looked at Fay and she stood up and gave her hand to the Head of the Atobe Corporation.

"Nice to meet your acquaintance, Atobe-sama," Fay said sweetly but firmly.

"Charmed. The pleasure is all mine Mishima-sama," he said and kissed her hand.

Fay blushed at his simple manner, but also got the impression that the man in front of her was not to be taken lightly.

They sat at the table and Atobe was sitting across Fay. He was looking at her from top to bottom. That made Fay jump out of her skin.

They ate making small talk. Atobe had asked questions regarding her post as to see how much knowledge Fay had on the Marketing Department. He was pleased to see that she had all the knowledge she needed to obtain the post he was offering. Now the only thing for him to test was her integrity.

Atobe looked at Oshitari out of the corner of his eye and the tensai nodded slightly as to not draw any attention.

"Would you please excuse me?" Oshitari said getting up from his seat and left the table.

Atobe was looking intensely at Fay, "You know, when Yuushi told me that he had a woman for the job, Ore-sama didn't want to hire you, but he insisted. Ore-sama must say that Ore-sama is impressed by your looks. You are a stunning woman Mishima-sama," he said slyly and

sipped his wine.

"Ore-sama?" Fay raised her perfectly shaped eyebrow. "Thanks for the compliment Atobe-sama, but I must inform you that I am not interested in anything past the job," she responded dryly.

"Arn. That's no way to talk to your boss." He snorted amused.

"That's no way to look at your employee, let alone a woman," she retorted.

"Well, Ore-sama can give you everything you want. If you know what I mean." He smiled slyly.

"I'd rather quit than be your play-toy Atobe-sama," she responded coolly.

Atobe laughed loud and looked at her with a delightful gleam in his eyes. "I like you Mishima-sama and I like your spirit the most. I am sorry for acting like that with you, but I wanted to test you." He smiled "Please forgive my rudeness."

Fay was shocked. "It's alright, Atobe-sama." She smiled awkwardly. She had trouble figuring out what had just happened. At that moment Oshitari came back to the table and she looked at him questioningly.

Oshitari smirked. "Everything ok?" he asked Atobe.

"Yes Yuushi. She is great. She will be a very good asset to the company." He responded. "Welcome to the company, Mishima-sama," he said looking at Fay and she nodded smiling softly.

"What just happened in there, Yuushi?" Fay asked once lunch was over. She was sitting in his car, but they weren't moving.

Oshitari turned and looked at her. "He is a man of money and name, he's careful about who he hires that's why he decided to test you."

"You mean flirting! Not testing!" she snapped.

He chuckled. "Don't worry, Fay. It's only in the past and you're an official employee now, so relax."

She went quiet.

"Maybe now would be a good time for you to tell me what's going on."

Fay looked at him sadly and let out a sigh. She folded her hands on her knees and told him the whole story. She needed to get it off her chest and she knew he was dependable and if she asked him not to tell his fiancée then he wouldn't.

"It was only a kiss under mistletoe, Fay. You shouldn't read into it a lot," he said simply, after hearing her story.

"I wish I could take it that easily, Yuushi," she admitted. "It was

awkward and I was taken abackâ€| butâ€| Yuushi, it wasn't only that. The whole night was different," she said with a sigh, leaning back on the chair. "I'm such a horrible friend."

He put his hand gently on her head and patted it lightly. "Look, you're seeing Niou tomorrow. Dress up, enjoy it and forget you ever went out with Sanada."

She nodded numbly, but then snapped up. "How do you know I'm seeing him tomorrow?!" she demanded.

"I heard him!"

* * *

><p>"So how was the interview?" Aya asked Fay while she was helping her chop some onion. Fay decided to cook dinner so they could enjoy eating with Arisa and Oshitari. They had gone over to Oshitari's parents for the afternoon to see them and leave Kaede to sleep over at her grandparents.<p>

"It wasâ€| interesting," she answered absentmindedly, walking to the sink and started washing some dishes.

"Oh! How so?"

"Ummâ€| just was." She wiped her hands on a cloth and took the chopped onions from Aya.

"Heyâ€| What's wrong?" Ay asked a bit concerned.

Fay turned around and looked at her "Huh? Nothing." She resumed at her cooking "I was just thinking of something."

"Oh! Ok. You will tell in time. I am going to set the table," Aya said briskly and started taking out the cutlery. "Let's see. We need six forks and knives for the chicken, six spoons for the soup and six glasses for the wine. Fay, should I take glasses for water too?" she asked, looking at her friend.

"Ummâ€| yes!"

"Ok. Six glasses for water. Voila!" She beamed happily.

"Six?"

"Yes. We will be six people," she answered fixing the table properly.

"Why six? Kaede is not coming back with Yuushi and Arisa," Fay said as a matter-of-factly.

"I know." Aya rolled her eyes. "I invited Sanada and Haru to join us."

Fay thought she was hit by a bus at the mention of Sanada and Niou. She dropped the plate she was holding; luckily it was a plastic plate and did not brake at its impact with the floor.

"What. Did. You. Just. Say?" she yelled "Why on Heavens Earth you would invite them without telling me?" she said angrily, hands on her hips.

Aya who had frozen by the sudden outburst of Fay's fury just looked at her. After what seemed like a minute of uncomfortable silence, Aya spoke very softly and explained to Fay that Arisa had suggested it.

After an hour, Arisa and Oshitari finally returned home. They sat in the living chatting and discussing Oshitari's case, until the doorbell rang. At the sound of the doorbell, Fay froze.

Oshitari noticed her sudden displeasure. "I will open the door," he said and got up to open the door. "Hello again." He greeted their guests as they walked in.

Sanada walked in, holding a small bag and offered it to Aya. "Thank you for inviting us," he said. "Please accept this as a homecoming gift."

Aya blushed with a smile, accepting it.

Fay walked out to greet them as well after Arissa had pushed her to do so. She bowed and smiled, and then excused herself to check on the food in the kitchen.

Once back in the kitchen, Fay looked at the different pots on the stove. When Aya told her they had guests, she had slaved over the kitchen and made sure there was enough food for them all. She hated how irresponsible her Pooh was sometime. _I mean she invited guests and didn't stop to think for a second that they needed to make more food. _

"Need help?"

Fay turned to see Aya walk into the kitchen. She shook her head and pulled the lasagna out. "Don't worry, I'm fine," she said, putting it on the table. "I just never cooked so fast in my life."

"I'm sorry, Tigger," she said, apologizing. "I didn't expect you to get mad."

Fay let out a sigh, pulling out the salad bowl. "I'm not mad," she answered. "I just don't know where I stand with Niou, so I was surprised to hear that he was coming over tonight when I have a date with him tomorrow."

"You seem very off these daysâ€¦| actually you seem off since you returned from your date withâ€¦|"

"I got the job, Aya," Fay interrupted.

Aya blinked.

Fay smiled and moved her head sideways. "I got the job as marketing manager, Aya," she repeated, changing the subject. "I start working in a week."

Aya hugged Fay. "That's great. Your dream has come true. I am so

happy for you."

"Thanks babe. Now let's get the party rolling." She winked and started filling the dishes with food.

When everybody had been seated at the table, Fay was the last to sit. She sat between Sanada and Oshitari and opposite Niou.

As they ate and made small talk between them, Fay sensed a foot rubbing on her left leg. She looked at Niou and he smirked devilishly. She rolled her eyes and moved a little to her right. She came closer to Sanada who was eating quietly. He looked at her and they both blushed. Fay then looked at Aya and smiled, but she noticed that Aya was talking to Niou, who was looking at her from the corner of his eye.

Quickly, she moved to her side and stayed closer to Oshitari. He seemed to be the safest she could be next to at the moment.

"Delicious food, who cooked?" Niou asked.

"Our one and only, Fay," Aya said proudly, smiling at him.

Niou chuckled. "Then I'm very lucky, don't you agree, Sanada?"

Sanada looked at him and then back at Fay. "I would say so," he said quietly, sipping his wine.

Fay blushed at all the praises she was getting and decided to change the subject. "How's work, gentlemen?" she asked, trying to lighten the mood as well.

Aya looked up at the mention of 'work', "Oh, Fay! Do they know? Did you tell them?!"

Niou perked up and looked at Fay. "Do tell, princess? Why is my little sister over excited?"

Fay rolled her eyes at his nickname for her. "I got a job."

Sanada turned to look at her. "Oh, congratulations."

"Sanada! Wait! We need to know whether it's something we can congratulate her for or not," Niou said with a smirk on his face. "Well?"

Fay raised an eyebrow and explained. By the time she was done, the look on both Niou and Sanada's faces were priceless. "You're kidding, right?" Niou muttered, smacking his forehead. "You're working for that _ass_."

"Ass?" Fay asked, turning to Sanada and she noticed she was rather close, for her heart actually skipped a beat.

Sanada cleared his throat. "Long story, Mishima-sama."

Fay looked at them and then at Oshitari. He was smirking "I never said he was a saint," he said before Fay could ask him

anything.

"Who wants desert?" Aya got up from the table and looked around. They all nodded and Arisa followed her to the kitchen.

"You never told me that both men were so handsome," Arisa said giving Aya some bowls to put ice cream in.

"Yeah. Sanada is so handsome and he is so serious. He hardly ever speaks," Aya said dreamily.

"He is the one you like?" Arisa asked placing the now full bowls of ice cream in a tray.

"ummâ€¦ yes Arisa. Who else? Haru?" Aya laughed, "We became very good friends."

"Interesting." Was all Arisa said and left with the tray in hand.

After eating their deserts they moved to the living room to chat a little bit more before the guys left.

"You know there is mistletoe hanging in the front door?" Oshitari said looking at Fay who blushed. "Every time we stand beneath waiting for you guys to open the door Arisa wants a kiss." He sighed "Do you mind getting it down from there."

"Yeahâ€¦Ok," said Fay feeling embarrassed.

"Noâ€¦ Someone put it there, so we will leave it there. So what if you kiss your girlfriend under the mistletoe Mr." Aya glared at him.

"Well, obviously who ever put it there wanted to be kissed." Niou said nonchalantly looking at Fay and smiling devilishly. He was once again sitting opposite Fay. _I am missing something here_, he thought looking between Sanada and Fay.

Fay got up from her chair. "Can I talk to you Niou-san?"

"Sure." He got up and followed her to the small balcony that was connected to the kitchen.

When they stepped out Fay closed the door behind them. "Why? Why are you making my life so difficult?" she asked exasperated crossing her hands "Why do you like making me feel uncomfortable?"

"Isn't it obvious?" he answered "You wouldn't have called me out here if I did act like that." He moved closer to her slowly, very slowly.

Fay was looking at him seriously agitated. She knew that he was advancing and she decided to stay, she wanted to kiss him and forget about the kiss she shared with Sanada, the kiss that haunted her dreams.

Niou moved even closer and put his arms around Fay's waist, their faces only inches away. Then Fay acted on her own impulse and pulled him into a deep kiss. Niou was taken aback from the change of roles

but soon took the lead.

One of his hands reached to Fay's neck and caressed the hair at the base of her head, trying to adjust her to a position where he could take over. His other hand was on her waist and had a tight hold on her.

Fay pushed her body closer to Niou's and dug her hands in his hair. She could taste the sweetness of the ice cream he had on his lips. She parted her lips and he flicked his tongue in her mouth. They started a battle between their tongues, where Niou was the final winner, Fay moaned into the kiss, as Niou sucked on her bottom lip.

They pulled away to take some breaths and looked at each other in the eyes.

"You really took me by surprise," he whispered and leaned to nibble on her neck below her ear. "No wonder they call you Tigger." He chuckled.

Fay lifted her head and closed her eyes; she loved his sweet little kisses and caresses.

Suddenly the door open and Aya came out to throw something in the trash can.

"Oh! Oh! OH! I am so so so sorry. I didn't know." She went back in and slammed the door behind her.

Niou and Fay laughed. They leaned in for another passionate kiss when the door flung open again.

"Masaharu, we need toâ€¦" Sanada stepped out and looked at Niou and Fay kissing.

Fay pulled away when she heard his voice and stiffened.

Niou sensed the tension in the air.

"Sorry to interrupt. We have to go. Court case tomorrow." Sanada said mechanically as stiff as a wall. Then he turned and left.

Niou grinned and looked over to Fay who was blushing furiously in embarrassment.

"Well, have to go. Boss's orders." He said briskly. He gave Fay a light kiss and pulled her inside, in the warmth.

Fay was speechless, she wanted the earth to open and make vanish. _I shouldn't feel this way_, she screamed in her head, _then why do I feel so guilty._

When the boys finally left, she asked Aya if she minded cleaning up the rest because she wasn't feeling well and went to have a shower.

After Fay had left and Aya finished cleaning, she turned to Oshitari with a frown. "Yuushi, what did you think of them?" she asked curiously, wanting his approval.

He looked at her and smiled. "They're good guys, Aya. You don't need to worry about them."

"I'm glad," she said sincerely. "It would be such a shame if Sanada turned out to be not so gentle and sincere. I really like him."

Oshitari went quiet.

'Oh, Yuushi!" She flicked his forehead. "You went quiet!"

"Damnit! Don't do that," he swore, holding his forehead.

Aya giggled and ran to her room.

Oshitari let out a sigh. "Oh, Aya. You can be too kind sometimes," he murmured, leaning back.

I am officially a bad person Fay thought miserable on Aya's bed. She was hugging a pillow tightly and trying not to cry in it. _I don't know what was worse_ Sanada's stunned look or Niou's triumph smile._

She held herself so tightly that she pretended to be asleep when Aya got into the bed. She didn't want to talk about tonight. She was going to go out with Niou tomorrow and forget all her awkward moments that occurred with Sanada.

First thing tomorrow, I'm going to throw away that stupid mistletoe so I don't get anymore reminders

5. Chapter 5

****Bittersweet Life****

****Chapter 5****

Fay got up in the morning and was feeling groggy, for she couldn't sleep at all last night. She had been turning and tossing the entire night, _good thing Aya sleeps like a rock_, she thought to herself.

She looked at the clock in Aya's room and saw that the time was only 7 am. She sighed and went to make coffee. In the kitchen, she sat on the table and sipped her coffee quietly as she watched a sappy TV series on the small television set that Aya had bought for the kitchen.

When she finished her coffee, she decided to go down to the entrance and remove the mistletoe above the door, so there would be no more temptations. Also, it wouldn't be a constant reminder of the kiss she shared with Sanada.

I have to stop thinking of that kiss. It wasn't even a proper kiss and it's doing this to me! Something is seriously wrong, she scolded herself mentally. She climbed up the ladder and untied the mistletoe from where it was hanging. Before she could climb down, someone spoke to her, startling her.

"You know, people either sleep at this time or go to work." Oshitari chuckled. "What are you doing up there hanging like a monkey?"

"Yuushi! Don't you have other things to do than scare people to death in the morning?" she complained angrily as she climbed down the ladder.

Oshitari looked at her amused and then saw the mistletoe in her hand. "Please tell me that you didn't take the mistletoe down?" he asked, eyeing her carefully.

"Youâ€|" She poked him, "were the one complaining yesterday." She glared at him.

"I was. That's true." He pushed his glasses up the bridge of his nose, "But you shouldn't take it down today."

"And why is that?" She narrowed her eyes, expecting him to tease her.

"Because someone may be wishing to get kissed tonight," he said lightly.

"Well, I am sorry to who ever wishes to be kissed but they would have to find some other mistletoe to stand under and get their kiss," she said bitterly.

"Well, you should apologize to Aya then for wishing to get kissed tonight after her date," he said and left.

Fay just stood there as if she was struck by lightning. She didn't know that Aya had a date with Sanada. She remembered that Aya had to cancel on him the next day of their date because she got caught up at work. She forgot that she never went on an official date with him yet. A part of her wanted to just leave and wish that Sanada wouldn't kiss Aya, but the better part of her climbed up the ladder again and put the mistletoe back in its place on top of the entrance.

Her day passed fast enough and she was very sad that she had to stop working at Kumiko-san's store. However, she was more excited about her new job. Kumiko-san also was very thrilled that Fay got such an important job that she gave her 5 business suites for her work. Fay promised to visit as frequent as possible.

"Arisa, I am so sorry that we will leave you guys here alone," Fay said hastily, trying to tie her sandals.

"Oh! Don't worry. Now that Kaedes is not here we can have some quality time." Arisa giggled.

Fay looked at her shocked and shook away her thoughts on what Arisa and Oshitari would be doing on her bed.

"Oh! You look stunning Fay. As usual," Oshitari said as he walked into the living room, "Babe, I have made us a bubble bath." He leaned down to kiss Arisa and then he nibbled on her neck while she giggled helplessly.

Fay frowned a bit at the scene in front of her eyes. She had longed for a 'one and only' for a long time, but she really doubted that she could find that type of closeness in a man like Niou. Although, he seemed to confuse her to no end, the man was like a chameleon(1). She sighed and walked to Aya's room so she could the final touches to her makeup. She was wearing a full body dress of dark blue that was sleeveless. It was a long dress that ended at her ankles, not too formal but not too informal. Niou had text her and told her to dress well.

"Well, I am off," Fay said, putting on her coat. She gasped when she turned around and saw that Oshitari was on top of Arisa. They were both making out. "Hey! At least wait until I leave," she said half amused. They both looked up at her. "Anyway, I am leaving. He just called and told me that he is waiting for me down stairs. Have fun."

* * *

><p>Downstairs

Niou was waiting for her at the entrance of the building with a huge smirk on his face. When Fay approached him, he stood straight because he was leaning against his car. Before she could greet him, he leaned forward and kissed her hard.

Fay pulled away shocked. "What do you think you are doing?" she demanded.

"I was kissing you." He pointed upwards. "You see. We are standing under mistletoe." He chuckled.

Fay muttered something under her breath and walked over to his car. He rushed up and opened the door for her. Fay looked puzzled at his action. _Chameleon_, she thought.

"So, where are we going?" she asked curiously, looking at him.

"We're going to a restaurant."

"Obviously," she muttered, "well, it must be somewhere fancy. You are wearing a suit."

"Hmm. Very observant of you." He chuckled "My best friend Hiroshi is getting engaged on Christmas Eve and he is having a small gathering."

"Oh," Fay said softly "Lucky. He probably has found his 'one and only'," she whispered, but it was loud enough for Niou to hear though.

"His 'one and only'?" He looked at Fay "Are you trying to tell me something?"

"No, it was just a stupid comment."

"Well, for your information, he was forced to marry this girl. She is a very nice person, but Hiroshi never had the choice of choosing his partner, and that is sad," he said seriously, eyes on the road ahead.

"He was told that he had to get married to her at our senior year in High School. The only thing he asked for in return was to finish University and then play golf professionally." He sighed, "Well, after all these years he started loving her so he decided to marry her on his own free will."

Fay was silent. She couldn't comprehend how people could consent to an arranged marriage. _Well, my parents would obviously do the same thing if I wasn't rebellious enough_, she thought. "I am sorry to hear that he was forced into the marriage, but I am happy to hear that he finally fell in love with her," she said softly.

"I wouldn't say that he fell in love with her exactly." Niou smiled sadly. "Here we are."

They parked the car at the outside parking lot and walked to the restaurant silently. Suddenly he took her hand gently and tugged it under his elbow. Fay looked up at him and he smiled sweetly at her. _Now that's something you don't see everyday_, she thought smiling just as sweetly back at him.

They sat at the designate table that was reserved for them and waited to be served their appetizers and drinks. While waiting, Niou's phone rang.

He looked at the caller ID and answered the phone. "Hiroshi." He paused. "That's alright. I will enjoy the rest of the evening with my lady. Call me if you need anything." He closed his phone and sipped on his wine. "Hiroshi is not coming. His fiancÃ©e wasn't feeling well. So, I guess, it's just you and me."

"I hope she is alright," Fay said softly. Somehow she liked this Niou. He seemed tranquil and very mature. He reminded her of Sanada. _No, not now_, she scolded herself inwardly.

"Did you dress up so elegantly for our other date too?" He smirked as he eyed her carefully.

"Well, yes I did, but that was only because I thought you were taking me somewhere fancy." She sipped her juice.

"Ummâ€¦ I feel jealous of Sanada." He narrowed his eyes, "I hope he didn't kiss you under the mistletoe. I don't think he would though, he is too much of a gentleman," he said nonchalantly.

Fay blushed and picked her glass and sipped her drink as to hide the blushing from Niou's piercing gaze. However, he caught it, but said nothing more on the subject.

The food was brought short after the embarrassing. They had been silent the whole time. Fay was not sure how to react as she looked around the restaurant. It was quite luxurious.

"Do you like the place?" Niou asked out of the blue to break the uncomfortable silence.

Fay nodded. "It's very beautiful. It must be really expensive though," she whispered, feeling a bit bad. _Why did he bring me to an expensive restaurant? _

"You shouldn't worry about that." He laughed. "A beautiful woman has to be taken care off."

Fay looked at him amazed. The first impression she got from him was the worst she could think of, but this man standing across her was different. Nevertheless, he still had a sly look in his eyes. Fay looked into his eyes and shivered from the intensity of their emotions. _He's showing me emotions I never thought he would possess._

They ate mostly in silence. They did converse a bit, mostly about their likes and dislikes. Fay was stunned when she heard him rant about his likes, which made her vaguely think of Aya. It was as if she was on a date with her best friend. Apart from his wild attitude towards women, he was as chirpy and cheerful as Aya. _How come those two aren't together_; she thought dryly, _they fit perfectly._ "I must say that you and Aya have a lot in common," she said absentmindedly.

"Hmm. Most probably. We clicked immediately. She's like a little sister," Niou said thoughtfully, playing with the fork and knife.

"You know, the fork and knife is to help you eat, not play." She sighed.

"Want to dance?"

"Eh?" She looked at him surprised. "You want to dance?"

"Yeah." He got up from his seat. "My Lady will you honour me with a dance." He bowed and stretched his arm towards Fay.

"Suân| sure, but you don't have to be so theatrical about it," she hissed.

He held her waist, hand and then started dancing. "I wouldn't say I was theatrical. I was as romantic as a gentleman should be." He continued. "You are as stiff as Sanada." He smirked. Fay immediately blushed and looked away. _Bingo_, he thought, _I have to make her forget the date they had. I wonder what happened between them._

He looked at Fay and then leaned to kiss her cheek.

Fay jerked her head up at the touch. She looked up at him just as his lips found hers. They kissed while dancing on the dance floor. The lights had faded to create a very romantic atmosphere.

"You are great dancer," she remarked a little breathless.

"I thought you were going to say I was a good kisser." He chuckled.

Fay chuckled too, hiding her face on his chest, "Yeah, that too," she said sheepishly.

He looked at her. "You look beautiful when you blush," he whispered next to her ear. "You drive me crazy." He bit her earlobe.

Fay shivered as an electrifying rush ran through her body "No. Don't.

There are people here," she muttered breathing heavily.

"Let's go then." He led her away from the dance floor and they left the restaurant.

"Niou, wait. Aren't you going to pay?" she asked him in a panic.

He smirked. "It's on Hiroshi." He pulled her closer to him. They stood by the car and he looked at her. "Do you want to go back to my apartment?"

"It depends on what you have planned," Fay said, raising an eyebrow.

"It depends if you're as wild as your reputation claims to be," he said with a smirk.

Fay glared at him, but grabbed his wrist. "Let's just go and see what happens," she muttered.

They got to the car and drove off. They drove for about half an hour until they stopped at the entrance of an apartment building. Fay looked at the apartment building. _I guess we're both just the type not to waste any time, _she thought. _However, I got the impression that he is less wild than me._

They walked to the entrance and he opened the door for her. They entered the elevator and Niou stopped it midway to his apartment.

Fay looked at him when she sensed the elevator stop abruptly. "What happened?" she asked panicked. "I hate it when this happens! Niou, pleaseâ€¦" she held his upper arm, shaking it. "I hate it whenâ€¦"

He smirked, held her hands and pulled her into his arms. He looked at her and then kissed her. Fay didn't fight back, but let herself free. She needed it to keep her mind off the elevator because she normally panicked if it ever stopped midway. She lifted her hands to his hair and pulled him closer to deepen the kiss. He snaked his hands around her waist and they kissed hard and passionate. Their tongues were battling against each other in a duel that Niou won once again. His hands were touching her body and their little ministrations made Fay shiver in pleasure.

"Are you feeling better now?" he whispered as they parted a bit only to breathe a little and then kissed again with more passion. Niou pressed the button for the elevator to move upwards. "I'm sorry, I didn't know you were going to get scared of this," he said, rubbing her lower lip gently.

Fay stepped into his arms, holding him tightly. "It's alright."

When they arrived at Niou's apartment, they entered, still holding each other. They walked to the couch and Niou pulled Fay to sit on his lap. They kissed again and he pushed her gently, making her lay down on the couch. He leaned above her and took off her shawl. He then worked his way to her neck, licking and biting.

Fay bit her lip not to squeal pleasantly from Niou's teasing

kisses.

He loved every sound that came out of her kiss-bruised lips. His hands were at Fay's back and were pulling the zipper of her dress.

Fay opened her eyes when Niou bit her collarbone playfully and her gaze landed on a picture on the wall. It was a photo of Sanada and Niou with their diplomas in their hands.

What am I doing; she thought panicking, _I can't be doing this, not from our first real date._ She felt Niou's hand on her tummy and it was climbing upwards. She was melting by his touches, but her eyes fell on the photo again and she jerked herself away from Niou. She straightened her body and looked at him. "I am sorry. It's too early." _Yeah right, Fay_ Like he's going to believe you. You've slept with many guys on your first date! _

He sat up, looking at her. "It's alright," he said, moving a hand through his hair. "I'm sorry I rushed you." He gave back Fay her shawl. "Too early or late, you seemed to be enjoying yourself."

Fay actually blushed at the comment, but couldn't deny it. "Yeah umm well, I am sorry. It's our first official date." She sighed, looking at him.

He got up and turned his back to her. "I'm a bit surprised because you came in with me knowing where this would lead," he said, watching her. "Anyway, I'm patient enough," he muttered. _But I do need a cold shower, _he thought wryly, rubbing the back of his head. "I need you to excuse me because I need to cool off," he said, walking to his room.

Fay felt so embarrassed and vulnerable at that moment. It was the first time she had refused a guy. She was so confused at the moment. She couldn't recognize herself anymore. _What is going on with me, _she thought aggravated, _I would never back out from a moment like this. Why? Why now?_

She stayed like that for ten whole minutes until she covered her face with her hands. _I am so confused; I don't recognize myself anymore. Who am I? _She kept scolding herself mentally and did not realize that Niou had walked back in.

"Here," he said fresh out of the shower.

She jerked her head to look up at him. He was looking at her with an indifferent look that made her insides scream. She took the towel that he was holding in front of her face. She couldn't help think that he looked physically attractive with his hair wet like that. There was something utterly sexual about him as he stood like that in front of her.

"What for?" she whispered softly.

"This is for you to have a shower. Use the bathroom in Sanada's room. I left some clothes for you to wear." He turned and walked away.

Fay walked to the bathroom and took a shower. She let the water calm her nerves and wash away all her worries. She kept thinking of her

odd behaviour. _Why did I stop him? I really enjoyed everything he did; _she thought in a calm manner. _Those eyes, from the photo; _she shivered at the remembrance of the photo where Sanada and Niou stood beside each other posing. Niou was cheerful and smiled brightly. Sanada too, was smiling lightly, but the stern in his gaze was ever present.

Oh my Gosh, I am so confused; she screamed inwardly. She closed the water, dried herself, covered her body with the towel and walked out to Sanada's room.

She looked around at the photos, for her curiosity was legendary anyway. She looked at a photo where Sanada was posing alongside another man. _He is a__ very handsome man. I wonder who this man is.

—

"That's Yukimura. He was our tennis captain during school," Niou said coolly, leaning against the doorframe looking at Fay carefully.

Fay turned around and met his gaze. She felt naked at the intensity of his gaze. She immediately hugged herself. _It's not helping that I'm only standing here in a towel._

"Che, I only wanted to ask if you cared for some coffee," he muttered dryly, sensing her withdrawal. "I told you I'm patient enough, Fay, so you don't need to be scared of me."

Fay stiffened at his harsh tone of voice. She knew he was trying to be easy around her, but she also knew that he was not pleased about what happened. She knew that she was fully to blame for what happened earlier. "Yes, please. I would like that." She smiled lightly.

Niou turned and left the room, closing the door behind him. She got dressed quickly in a pair of long trousers and a big blouse that would probably fit two more Fays in.

Walking out of Sanada's room, she walked to the living room where Niou was sitting on the left end of the couch, "Didn't you have something bigger for me to wear?" she said sarcastically as she sat on the other end of the couch.

Niou didn't look at her when he answered, "Those are Sanada's clothes, not mine."

"Oh!" Fay whispered, wide eyed surprised and looked at him, blushing furiously. "Why did you give me his clothes?"

Niou looked straight into her eyes calmly, but his gaze suddenly turned furious. "Why don't you look at a mirror and see," he muttered in an obvious way that he was aggravated.

"What is that supposed to mean?" she demanded, her tone increasing.

"What do I mean?" he yelled. "You blush every time Sanada's name is mentioned. We were getting intimate and you just gave me the cold shoulder. What do you think I mean," he said angrily, looking at her through narrowed eyes.

Fay's face turned red in fury. She got up and pointed at him. "You

said that it was alright and that you are patient! Do you think I am some kind of slut that would sleep with you on the first date?" she shrieked.

"Well, according to my sources that was never an issue, was it? Sleeping on your first date? You knew exactly why we came here. You didn't protest," he shouted back at her, "If you didn't want me to advance on you, you could have told me no when I kissed you in the elevator." He got up and glared at her, "Don't kiss me back and give me false hopes if you don't intend to go further with me."

Fay was fuming, she wanted to hit him so bad, "I was CONFUSED," she yelled and moved closer, glaring dangerously at him.

"Confused?" he started laughing. "Confused of what? My intentions?" he eyed her. "I was clear from the first time I met you that I wanted you. What were you confused about?" he asked. "Is this really about sleeping with me? Or is this about Sanada?" he demanded, looking at her.

Fay froze the moment she heard those words come out of his mouth. She looked at him wide eyed in surprise. _So that's why he is mad_, she thought. _He is not mad about me refusing him, but mad about Sanada._

—

"I am right, aren't I?" he muttered disappointedly and turned to walk away, but Fay grasped him from the shirt and pulled him into a deep passionate kiss. He was surprised once again by her action and thought of pushing her away, but Fay pulled him closer.

They kissed, tongues fighting each other for domination. They fell back to the couch still kissing.

Fay pulled away a little to breathe some air and started licking and sucking on Niou's earlobe. After that, she began moving down to his neck.

Niou shivered at the sensation. His hands touched her shoulders and caressed them gently.

Fay gasped at his touch and slid her hands through his hair. She turned her head a bit to the side to give him access to her neck. He moved up again and kissed her lips. As they kissed again, he moved closer to her. Fay froze at how close he was and her previous thoughts came running back fast to haunt her. Quickly, she pulled away once again. "No!" she whimpered, hugging herself.

Niou stopped and looked at her, but she couldn't look at him. Her face was flushed and she was looking down at the carpeted floor as if there was something appealing to it.

"Seriously! Ah! Just forget it," he muttered and hit his fist on the couch next to Fay's shoulder in frustration. "I may be patient, but I am still a man."

"!"

He got no answer from her and got up. He walked to his room and met Sanada as he entered the apartment back from his date. He turned to Fay before Sanada could see her. "You know this is not about what

just happenedâ€| " _you know it's about a specific someone, _he thought aggravated. Niou walked past Sanada, wanting to ignore him, but stopped. "Take her home." Was all he said and shut the door behind him.

Sanada looked at him confused. _Take who home? _he wondered. His thoughts stopped when he heard someone sobbing. He walked to the living room to the source of the sound and froze when he realized it was Fay. He walked to her and sat on the couch next to her. He touched her shoulder softly and she looked up at him.

Fay froze when she saw Sanada looking at her. She felt as if the blood had drained from her face and she started crying.

Sanada hesitated, but he decided to put his arms around her. There was something about this woman that made him feel overprotective of her. She was still a stranger to him, but he felt like giving her solace at the moment.

"Did he do something to you? Did he force you?" he asked firmly, but Fay shook her head. "What happened then? Why are you crying?" he sounded worried.

"Iâ€| Iâ€| it's myâ€| faultâ€| Iâ€| myâ€| fault." She hiccupped, still sobbing.

"Should I take you home?"

"Yesâ€| yesâ€| please," she stuttered, trying to control her breathing.

"Alright. Go and wash your face and letsâ€|" he stopped abruptly and looked at her attire. "Are you wearing my clothes?"

Fay pulled away and looked at the clothes she was wearing, blushing lightly "Ummâ€| Niouâ€|. Yourâ€|. he gave me your clothes," she said embarrassed and looked away.

"It's too big," he muttered.

Fay looked at him puzzled. She looked at the clothes she was wearing and began laughing out of nervousness.

He watched her as she laughed and a light smile touched his face. "Are you feeling better?"

Fay nodded and got up. She went to the bathroom and washed her face. She tried to fix her hair, or at least to make it look more presentable. She then walked out to Sanada's room where he was waiting for her, holding a bag.

"I should change," she whispered her voice hoarse from the sobbing.

"It's alright. I packed your things here." He showed her the bag. "Shall we?" He asked, motioning for the door.

"Thank you," she said softly.

"You are welcome. Come on."

The way to Fay's apartment was silent. She didn't want to spoil the peace she was feeling by trying to explain what happened. _He won't ask anyway_; she thought. She was looking outside the window at the lights of the city that passed through like bright lines. She thought of Niou and sighed. She had hurt his feelings with her actions. She had consented both times to the pleasures he was giving her, but both times she stopped him. She looked at Sanada out of the corner of her eye as he drove quietly, _I wonder how his date with Aya went, _she thought. _Why am I feeling jealous when I should be sad after what I did to Niou?_

They arrived at Fay's apartment and he walked her to the building entrance.

"Well. Thank you very much Sanada-san." She looked down, blushing. "I am sorry to have put you through all this trouble."

"It's alright. I hope everything will be ok," he said softly.

They looked at each other and then their gaze lifted to where the mistletoe they kissed under was hanged, but it wasn't there anymore.

They both glanced back at each other in silence and Fay could see longing and desire in Sanada's brown eyes. Sanada could see love and need in Fay's big black eyes. They both stepped back from each other instinctively. After a moment that seemed forever, Sanada bowed quietly and left. Fay remained looking at his retreating figure while tears ran down her cheeks again.

6. Chapter 6

****Bittersweet Life****

****Chapter Six****

Sanada watched Aya get into his car and he smiled. He knew what a tomboy she was and he found it funny that even Aya in a dress, could still manage to find a way to wear leggings underneath it. Watching her, he couldn't help think that she would look more beautiful in something elegant and sexy like Fay had worn the other night. He stopped at his thoughts and shook his head, _focus on Aya, _he thought, looking at her.

"I'm sorry I'm late," Aya said with a smile.

He watched her and nodded. "You're worth waiting for," he said firmly, turning the car on.

She giggled and watched him. "So where are we going?" she asked curiously. "I didn't know what to wear, but Fay insisted I put on a dress because she said you had good taste."

"I see," he said absentmindedly. _Good taste? _He thought wryly. _It would've been nice to know on the spot than her wishing she was with Masaharu_.

Aya poked his arm and gave him a smile. "You didn't answer me," she

said sheepishly, waiting for him to respond to her previous question. All this time, she was studying his profile and admire how good looking he was. Niou was sexy in her book, but Sanada Genichirou was handsome.

He looked at her gave her another smile. _Maybe this could just work out fine, _he thought. "Do you mind if we keep it as a surprise?"

"Surprise? You? Surprise? Hmm... Then what Haru told me about you was completely different." She frowned, holding her chin.

"Haru?"

"Oh, Niou," she said, pushing her tongue out at him. "So, where are we going?" she asked again, hugging his upper arm. She hated surprises and was never good with them. Arisa always told her that her impatience trait will get her in trouble one day.

He chuckled softly. "A restaurant."

'Ohâ€| where you took Fay?" she asked excitedly. She never got the full story of her date with Sanada, but she managed to find out that he had taken her to a very nice restaurant.

_Noâ€| I think I don't want to take anyone there for a while, _he thought, shaking his head. 'No, I'm taking you somewhere else."

"Alright!?" she exclaimed.

He drove for sometime until he came to a halt in front of a cottage. It was a cute little thing just by the seashores. He walked to the other side and helped Aya out, holding his hand out to her.

"Oh! This is so pretty!" she admitted, pulling him with her. "What is this place?" she asked, admiring the scenery.

He helped her inside and explained. "This is actually a new place; it has Japanese cuisine and is quite famous. It's quiet and peaceful; I thought you'd like it here." _and I made sure they didn't have any dancing in here, _he thought to himself.

He led Aya inside and they walked in. the setting was beautiful. Warm colors everywhere, candlelight's, and soft Japanese music. Sanada told the reservation desk that they were here and they were both taken to their tables. Once seated at their table, he folded his hands and looked at her. "Hi."

She looked up and winked. "Hi," she said sheepishly. "I didn't expect you to bring me to such a nice place," she admitted. "Haru took me to see Die Hard 4." She giggled like a little child.

"He wanted to take his date to see that?" he asked surprised, smacking his head. "Is your friend the type?" _what was Masaharu thinking, planning to take Fay to the movies? _He thought annoyedâ€| he had the distinct impression that she was not a movie person, but now he should've known better than to judge a book by it's cover.

"Yes." She nodded, sipping the glass of water the waiter just brought her. "Yeah, she's cool. We are movie freaks and I did enjoy my time with him, but I'm sure dinner with you would have been nice as well."

"Thank you."

The two of them spent quite some time together. Aya discovered a lot of things about him and realized that the so called Sanada Genichirou could actually be quite relaxed and not so stern. She realized though that he was probably easier to talk with alone rather than being in a group. She recalled that the night they all had dinner he was very quiet than the rest. "It's funny," she remarked.

He looked up, eyeing her. "Funny?"

"Yes," she answered. "You're so not my type, but I am really enjoying myself and I think it was hilarious how we all got mixed up last time."

He smiled wryly. "Indeed." He looked to the side and felt his heart skip a beat. _That was a mistake I never want to repeat, _he thought frustrated. _If that date never got mixed up, I wouldn't be feeling guilty sitting here with her right now. _

Aya placed a finger to her lips and suddenly remembered something. "Oh, I'm sorry if she was rude the other day. I really do need apologize on all the mix up that night, I was to blame.'

"No need to worry, it happens," he said. He decided to change the subject because he didn't want to talk about that night anymore. Even until today, he wondered what the hell happened to his sensibility and why he leaned and kissed her on the lips instead of her forehead when they were under the mistletoe. He kept having this inner argument with himself as to why he did that, but the odds were never with him, but against him. "What about you, Sawada-sama? Tell me about yourself?"

"Hmmâ€¦" she said out loud, thinking. "I am boring,"

He smiled gently and looked at her seriously. "You have a beautiful voice and Fay told me you sing what you write, so I doubt that adds to you being boring."

Aya blushed.

He cleared his throat. "I am sorry if my statement made you feel uncomfortable, but I was just speaking the truth." He looked away. "I had heard you sing and I think you possess a very beautiful voice."

Aya looked down shyly. "Thank you."

Sanada studied her and remembered something. "The song you sang the night we all met. It was rather sad."

Aya's eyes softened and nodded. "Yes, it was something I wrote a long time ago."

Sanada noticed how her eyes sparkle lessened. "I am sorry to have

brought it up."

"No," she said, smiling. 'Actually it was rather sharp of you to notice. Even my friends who have always been with me never said anything about it."

"Who was he?"

She looked at him surprised, but grinned. "I never figured you for the nosey type."

'Not really, but I always like to know why my friends are sad," he explained. "You said it was a long time ago, but I see that you are still pained by it."

"You are observant yet again," she murmured, stirring her drink.

He didn't say anything.

Aya let out a sigh. "What to say reallyâ€¦" she began. "He was someone I was with for five years. Five years is a lotâ€¦ I guess I had false hopes of him marrying me. At the end, he left me and married a woman chosen by his own parents." She rubbed a single tear from her eye. "The bastard never had the guts to say no to them."

"I am sorry."

"Don't be," she said sincerely. "Arisa picked up the pieces and Fay told me it was better for me to found out this way than marrying the idiot at a later stage."

Sanada frowned at that statement. "Rather harsh, don't you think?"

"No, she was right in every sense." She looked at him. "Can you imagine the horror if I had ever married him? I would've lived a living hell with his parents controlling his every move!" she exclaimed melodramatically.

He smiled at that. _These women are strongâ€¦ they went through so much together. I doubt anything can break them apart, _he thought.

They continued having light conversations until they finished eating. As he walked her out, Aya held his wrist gently. "Can we walk by the beach?" she asked, leading him there. "The beach at night is very calming. I don't get to see it often because the girls are too lazy."

He nodded, for he was never able to say no to a woman's request.

As they reach the beach, Aya took off her shoes and held them in her hand as she stepped onto the sand and walked towards the sea.

"Please be careful," Sanada said, following her. _She is just an excited kid, _he thought happily, making sure she wouldn't hurt herself. He reached her just as she almost tripped on the sand and caught her upper arm tightly. "I said be careful," he repeated, putting his hand gently on her waist and steadying her.

Aya nodded embarrassingly and then did something impulsive, she hugged his waist.

Sanada swallowed a bit and put one arm around her. She was warm and he liked this feeling, but there was something at the back of his head that was making him feel guilty, so he slowly pulled away and made her sit down. "Let's sit," he said, looking at her. "You're tired."

Aya frowned, but the dark did not show it on her face. "Did he just push me away?" she thought, feeling a bit paranoid. She shook her head and sat next to him. "I like it here," she said softly, looking at the sky.

He looked at her and admired how she looked under the moonlight's glow. For any man this would be the perfect scenario, he thought, but he knew he couldn't do anything until he settled someone else in his mind.

"Sanada?"

"Yes?"

"Are 'we' alright?" she asked seriously, looking at him.

He thought for a second about what she meant. "We?"

"Yes," she answered. "I mean do you still want to see me?"

Sanada smiled. "Of course, Sawada-sama," he answered truthfully. That he knew wasn't a lie because as much as someone else was invading his mind, he still thought seriously of Aya.

"Then you have to promise to call me Aya from now on, ok?" she said, her eyes glittering.

"Ok."

Aya poked his forehead. "No, promise me."

He chuckled and nodded. "I promise, Sawada. I promise, Aya."

Finally, after sitting there for a long time they returned back. Aya held his hand as he walked her to the door and she smiled when she realized that the mistletoe was gone. "No more." She giggled, looking up.

He looked up and understood her meaning, but at the same time, he got a flashback when he kissed someone he was not supposed to. Sighing, he was way too honorable for this, but at the end of the day he had been a man and in front of him was someone he wanted to kiss. A million times he had battled with his mind on what the hell it was thinking, but the answer was never there.

"I think Fay cut it down so she wouldn't see Yuushi and his woman again." Aya giggled. "As nice and lovely they are, but its sickening how lovey dovey they are when they forget everyone around them."

Sanada smiled. _I hope that was the real reason, _he thought, looking at Aya.

"So, do you want coffee?" Aya asked, turning the lock in so they could enter. "Our lovebirds will probably be late."

"Lovebirds?" he asked curiously, following her inside.

Aya chuckled. "Yuushi, Fay, anyone of the two?" she said, looking at him. "I want to say this seriously, Sanada." She looked at him with a smile. "I am happy Fay found someone like Haru, I think. I think he can make her happy again. She is a difficult woman to please and her heart has been broken many times."

_True, but Niou is also known for breaking hearts, _he thought worriedly. "Just make sure she's careful, ok?" he said softly. "Niou maybe one of the best, but he tends to lose precious things quickly."

"I'll make him keep her," she said determinedly.

He nodded with a light smile and followed her to the kitchen as she prepared coffee for the both of them. However, he was curious about that. "What happened to her? I noticed that she can be rather bitter and defensive sometimes?"

"Well, it was no better than mine, but she was seeing someone for a long time and they were dead serious, but it was more painful for her because she caught him cheating."

"I am sorry."

"With a man."

Sanada frowned at that new piece of information. "How horrible," he murmured, trying to think of the horror she must've felt when she witnessed that.

Aya bit her lip and then winked. "Between us, okay?" she said, looking at him seriously.

"I don't gossip."

Aya poked his forehead. "That means not Haru either, he needs to learn these things on his own."

He smiled at that.

All the while, they chatted about themselves and learned more about each other.

Sanada studied Aya as she worked her way in the kitchen and was starting to feel at home. She had insisted for him to stay in the living room, but he said it was alright and he would keep her company as she worked.

'Since I'm making tea, would you like some sweets as well?"

He looked up at her, surprised. "Sweets?"

"Yup," she said with a nod. "Mini pastries," she explained, getting some stuff out of the fridge. "It's ready; I just need to put some whipped cream and strawberry on top."

"Uhâ€¦ I don't eat sweets," he admitted.

"Oh, you're just as bad as Fay," she teased. "And how I make her eat it, you have no choice, but to eat it too."

"I'm serious."

"So am I," she said firmly.

Sanada let out a sigh, but couldn't help and smile at the situation.

Once Aya was done with the sweets, she placed two in front of him and smiled sweetly at him.

He smiled a bit and looked at her. "One I will try for you, but two is asking the impossible."

"Ohâ€¦ come on!"

"I'm serious."

She crossed her arms with a pout, but let out a sigh. "Then I'll wrap this up in a box, so please take it back with you to Haru, ok?"

He nodded.

By the time they finished, it was late. Sanada noticed that Aya was tired, so he stood up. "Aya, thank you for going out with me tonight," he said with a slight bow.

Aya blushed and shook her head, covering one side of her face. "Noâ€¦ Noâ€¦ Thank you for asking me out," she whispered, embarrassed.

Sanada noticed that she was embarrassed and he couldn't help think that she looked very cute like that. At an instinct, he walked towards her and hugged her closely. "You're very special," he said, kissing her forehead. "Let's do this again," he said, letting go of her.

She nodded with a smile and looked at him. Aya hugged him back and cherished his hold. "You will definitely ask me out again," she said, grinning up at him.

He smiled gently and looked down at her. For a second, she really thought he was going to kiss her, but he pulled her close and kissed the top of her head. Finally, he turned around and left.

After he left, she let out a sigh. _Why don't you still want to kiss me?! _She thought annoyedâ€¦ _Haru kisses me like that! You shouldn't be kissing me like that! _She crossed her arms, frustrated.

Aya threw her jacket and walked to her room, removing the eyeliner she had on._ Am I really that irresistible? Or am I being

impatient?_

She shook her thoughts, not wanting to know the answers. She simply went to the bathroom and decided to wait for Fay and get her report.

7. Chapter 7

"Morningâ€¦goodâ€¦" yawned Aya as she plopped on the couch near Fay who was watching television "What are you watching?"

"I am watching 'A walk to remember'" Fay sighed and hugged her legs.

"Why are you watching that at 9 o'clock on the morning? It's depressing!" Aya rolled her eyes, she snatched the remote from Fay and turned it on an anime channel "Now that's better!" she piped up happily.

"I am depressed!" Fay exclaimed and leaned back in the couch. She sighed heavily and looked at the ceiling. _I can't believe that happened last night, _she groaned inwardly, trying to forget the incident.

"What is wrong Tigger?"

"Nothing. I am just depressed." She looked sideways at Aya who was looking worriedly at her. _I don't even know how to tell Aya!

—

"Ummâ€¦Are you sure? Its Christmas Eve today and you should be happy not depressed." Aya hugged her.

Since when I was ever happy on Christmas, she thought wryly. Finally, she looked up and decided to tell Aya. It was a spur of moment decision, which she thought she should take to help her mind a bit. "Niou." Fay said annoyed "That man. He drives me crazy."

"Oh" Aya got up to look at her "It seems your date didn't going very well huh?" she pulled her tongue out "What did he do."

"Oh! Nothing muchâ€¦he took to his house, we almost had sex but I stopped him" she smiled at Aya's shocked expression "But I cut him off twice."

"What?" Aya gasped "You never cut anyone off." She laughed sheepishly.

"Somehow that sounds like I am a slut, Fay muttered thoughtfully, smacking her forehead. "I don't know what happened, but I hate the way he treated me at the end." She hissed angrily, remembering how angry he had been. _I don't know what was more horrifying, me cutting Niou off or Sanada knowing what happened?! I'm sure he figured it out by now. _

"Are you imitating my mood swings?" Aya teased and Fay slapped her playfully on her arm.

"Good morning to both of you."

"Good morning Arisa." Aya was trying to pinch Fay.

"Morning Arisa, please take this menace away from me." Fay laughed.

Arisa sat between the two girls "Ok ladies, now feed me the gossip." She grinned mischievously "Who is first?"

"Ummâ€¦I had a really nice time with Sanada. He took me to this beautiful small restaurant near the beach and then we walked on the beach." She said happily.

"That's great Aya-chan. Now get to the juicy part, did u two make out, is he a good kisser?" Arisa piped winking devilishly.

Aya blushed at that and looked away "I don't think he likes me." She said softly.

Both Arisa and Fay looked at Aya shocked with her statement.

"What are you talking about?" Fay asked puzzled.

"We didn't make out and he didn't kiss me." Aya sighed leaning backwards into the couch "We have been out together 3 times. He never once kissed me. Not even touched my lips."

What the hell is he doing; Fay thought looking at Aya, _what are you doing Sanada?_

Arisa hugged Aya "Maybe he is shy or too much of a gentleman. Give him time."

"Shy? I don't think he is shy. He is a gentleman though, but still if you like someone you would kiss them by now." Aya complained "I mean Niou already kissed Fay."

"Do not compare them." Fay retorted rather sharply, both girls looked at her curiously; Fay blushed and looked away "Arisa. Can I talk to Aya alone for a moment?" she pleaded.

Arisa was taken aback by that "Ummâ€¦ok. I'll go wake up Yuushi." She smiled and got up leaving the two girls in the living room alone.

"Aya."

Aya looked up puzzled and looked at Fay. Fay watched her and smiled uncomfortably and was playing with the small couch pillow. She hated herself for doing this, but she wanted to clear her conscious and let Aya know. "This is importantâ€¦ I need you to listen."

Aya looked straight in Fay's eyes when she noticed the seriousness in her voice. "What is it?"

"My date with Sanada."

Aya frowned a bit and looked at her.

"It went well," she admitted. "And we talked a lot about youâ€¦ I

don't know, he was a gentleman and I admired that in him," she said softly. "He reminded me of how horrible Niwa was, so I was happy to be with someone that was so caring."

"He is very caring."

"Aya I need you to know thatâ€¦" Fay didn't know why she was struggling with words. "It was unexpected, but we kissed."

"Under the mistletoe?"

Fay nodded.

"I think that's fine, even Haru-san kissed me on the forehead, soâ€¦"

"No. Not the forehead."

Aya stopped and blinked.

"It was unexpected Aya, I think the mood was weird or something."

"Was it long or short?"

"Eh?"

"Long or short, Fay?"

Fay looked at her until she comprehended her question. "Oh, it was a light touch. It barely even touched mine."

"Then why are you telling me this."

Fay looked down. "Because Niou has in his mind that I like Sanadaâ€¦ I needed to tell you about the kiss. It meant nothing."

Aya hugged Fay and patted her back. "Silly girl, were you worried?"

_Oh! Aya, if only I could confess my feelings to you. _

Aya grinned at Fay and got up to bring some juice and milk "So what are we doing tonight Fay?" she called from the kitchen.

Fay didn't answer but grinned at herself.

Aya came back into the leaving room with the beverages "Here you go juice for you, milk for me." She said and sat on the couch again "You don't need to worry about that kiss Fay. I just hope he kisses me soon. I need to know if he likes me."

"He likes you Aya. He told me so." Fay said absentmindedly. _Sanada, you idiot! What are you doing? Aya is a wonderful girl! You should show her that you like her. _

Aya looked at Fay and poked her forehead playfully. "So, what do you want to do today? I could call Haru over to watch a movie."

"Aya, me and Haru are not on our best of terms. Besides, they both

have to go to an engagement party." She rolled her eyes at Aya's ignorance "I told you already that we are going to a Christmas Eve party with Yuushi and Arisa."

* * *

><p>Sanada was watching the news on the TV when Niou strolled out of his room; he made his way to the kitchen and walked back to the living room. He sat on the couch and watched at the TV silently, sipping his coffee.<p>

"What happened?" Sanada asked not looking at Niou.

"Nothing" he answered indifferently.

"Why were you here with Fay?" Sanada asked bluntly.

"Why do you think Sanada?" snapped Niou irritated.

Sanada closed the TV and looked at him seriously "You made her cry, Niou." He sighed "You shouldn't make her cry."

"What is it to you Sanada?" Niou retorted glaring at him "For your information, I didn't pressure her. She came here knowing why the hell I brought her here. I even told her we were coming here. She never said no." he hissed "I would have taken her home if she didn't want to come."

"You shouldn't have brought her in the first place." Sanada leaned back in his armchair still keeping eye contact with Niou "We don't treat women that way." He said dryly.

"Oh what do you know about women. She is no saint you know." Niou said sarcastically.

"Do NOT talk about Fay that way." Sanada said, his voice sounding very low and dangerous.

"What is it to you Sanada? She is dating me not you. Besides, I didn't want to make love to her. I just wanted to make out." She sighed annoyed about the whole situation "Let's not talk anymore about this matter." _I need to figure what to do_, he thought "You are coming to Hiroshi's tonight right?" he changed the subject of the discussion.

"Yes, of course I am coming." Sanada said getting up "Everybody will be there." He walked to the kitchen, washed his cup and walked back to the living room. He looked at Niou "I am going to nap a bit. I feel tired."

"Yeah. You do that." Niou said flipping the channels on the television "Genichirou" he said turning his head backwards on the couch's top to look at Sanada "Thank you for driving Fay home. I appreciate it." He said and looked away.

Sanada looked at him faintly shocked by the sincerity in Niou's words "My pleasure Masaharu." He smiled warmly and walked to his room.

* * *

><p>"Excuse me, but why am I being dragged here? And in a dress?!"<p>

Fay rolled her eyes, holding Aya's wrist gently. "Aya, you need to stop being a drama queen over a dress. You and I have this argument every week." She pulled her with her inside into the huge mansion of Atobe.

Aya pouted.

Fay glanced at her and pinched her nose. "You're here giving me moral support. Atobe asked me to be at this part."

"Asked or ordered?" Aya asked, crinkling her nose.

Fay didn't answer. The truth was she had been ordered because he told her that everyone representing the company will be there. Therefore, since she reports to him, she had to show her face and mingle with the crowd before her official announcement.

"You haven't even started!" Aya muttered. "How can he force you to go somewhere you don't want to on Christmas Eve?" she complained, tugging at Fay's shawl. "We could've been with Gen and Haru."

Yes, Aya. The first place I want to be at is with Niou, she thought sadly. The truth was she had still not spoken or seen Niou. Not since the disastrous date they had and she was starting to feel guilty about that.

"Have you seen Haru, Fay?"

Fay wanted to answer, but got interrupted.

"You're late."

Fay and Aya looked up to see a very handsome man in a suit approaching them. The minute Fay recognized him, she crossed her arms. "Look, you either get me here looking beautiful and late or you don't get me at all."

Atobe raised an eyebrow, but a smirk was obvious on his face. "Merry Christmas, Mishima." he said politely, looking at her. In a second, his eyes moved to where Aya stood. "And who's your friend?"

"This is Sawada Aya, my one and only."

Aya smiled at him as he extended his hand. She took it, but to her surprise, he turned it and kissed it gently. "A pleasure."

Aya blushed at the gesture and smiled at him. "It's always weird for a stranger to kiss my hand."

Atobe smirked and bowed politely. "I am Atobe Keigo," he said formally. "Thank you for offering me your great presence in my party tonight."

Aya blushed even more, making Fay roll her eyes.

Fay crossed her arms annoyed, but she thought about it for a second

and grinned to herself. "You two will have to excuse me," she said, turning around. "Aya, I'll catch you later."

Aya looked startled for a second. _Did sheâ€¦ did she just leave me alone with him? _She thought, going into panic mode. Aya was struggling now between ideas to torture Fay and how to act in front of the man standing next to her.

"What do you do, Sawada-sama?" Atobe asked casually, studying her.

Aya thought for a minute and smiled. "I am a journalist."

"Impressive," he said, with a nod. "I had the distinct feeling that you looked familiar, now this confirms where I had seen your beauty before."

"Oh."

He caught her blushed look again and smiled. "You are very beautiful, Sawada-sama, so please don't be embarrassed by my words, for I only speak the truth."

Aya felt her heart beat quicken. _Why words like these making me feel all giddy? _She thought, trying not to feel like she was still a young girl being fed sweet talks. "Thank you," she said kindly. "You have good taste then," she answered, making him look surprised.

Atobe chuckled at her response and took her hand again, kissing it gently. "And you have a good sense of humour. It was a pleasure again, Sawada-sama," he said, turning around and leaving her.

* * *

><p>"Well, hello beautiful."<p>

Fay rolled her eyes "If your one and only hears you call another woman beautiful, I am sure she will pull your eyes out." She giggled.

"I am sure she will." Oshitari chuckled "Did you find the place easy?"

"Yeah. I have been through these parts before." She said as she took a glass of Champagne from a passing waiter "I wouldn't mind leaving in a mansion like this."

"Well, you could marry Atobe and live here." Oshitari joked.

"Not one in a million." Fay said rolling her eyes "Hey, Arisa. Where were you?" she smiled cheerfully.

"Just looking around. This place is awesome." She piped up happily "You should the gardens." She winked at Fay.

"Fay," Oshitari rubbed his chin "I don't see Aya. Didn't she come?" he asked looking around.

'Yeah. I left her with Atobe.'" She sipped from her Champagne "He actually flirted with her." She said flatly.

"He what?" both Oshitari and Arisa asked shocked "What on earth is he thinking?" Oshitari muttered.

"Why?" Fay looked puzzled.

"Atobe is a renowned heartbreaker. He dates a woman for a couple of nights and then he changes again." Arisa said looking around trying to locate Aya or Atobe.

"So he likes to sleep around." Fay muttered thoughtfully "Well, I think Aya can handle him quite well." She laughed.

"He is a charmer. I would be careful if I was her." Arisa said still looking around "Oh! I found her. How did you ever make her wear a dress?" she giggled "Did you blackmail her or something?"

"I will see you ladies." Oshitari bowed and left the girls walking towards a group of men.

Aya approached the girls "This place is fantastic. Did you see the garden?" she said cheerfully.

"Oh! He took you to the garden already? Talk about a fast mover." Arisa giggled and Fay laughed too at the comment. Aya just looked at her friends confused

* * *

><p>"Aren't you enjoying yourself Sawada-san?" Atobe strolled on the balcony to where Aya was standing.<p>

"I am having a great time Atobe-sama." she said sweetly.

"Then why are you here alone, arn?" he asked her while sipping from his champagne.

Aya looked at him and laughed out of nervousness "I am uncomfortable in this dress." she added.

He looked at her and smirked "But you look so elegant and beautiful in it." he moved closer to her.

Aya frowned a little and took a step sideways to put some distance between them, she than said briskly "Me elegant? No chance. Fay is elegant and has an air of a Lady."

"I see." he snorted "Would like a drink?"

"Umm...Yes, please." she tilted her smiling at him. _She is cute_; he thought and walked inside the ballroom.

Finally he left, Aya thought, _I going to kill Fay for making me wear this dress_, she whined inwardly, _I can't breathe_.

"I thought it was you, Aya." a briskly voice said behind her.

She turned and froze when her eyes met the eyes of the person that

spoke to her "You?" she said breathlessly.

"Yeah me. I didn't know you rolled in this high status of society?" he chuckled and moved closer to her.

"What are you doing here?"

"I was invited. Atobe has invited all the high class society to his party." he looked at her surprised at her ignorance.

"Niwa Tetsuya! You should leave! Immediately!" Aya glared at him "I am not supposed to talk to you. After what you did." she turned her back at him.

He chuckled "Well, that was an unfortunate incident. How is she?" he asked softly looking towards the gardens.

"I am not telling you anything that concerns her." she retorted stubbornly "You broke her heart. She changed into a different person because of what you did. Me and Arisa were the ones to pick up the pieces, when she was in that state." she continued sadly.

"I am sorry Aya." He sighed "I wish I could take everything back, but I can't."

"Why didn't you look for her?" Aya inquired.

"Its complicated." He ran his hand through his hair "You wouldn't understand."

"Try me." She crossed her hands and looked at him curiously.

"Arn, Niwa." Atobe said frowning, he handed Aya her drink "Here you go Sawada-sama." He bowed politely "What are you doing here?" he directed his attention to Niwa.

"You invited me Atobe, remember?" he answered sarcastically "I didn't know you knew Atobe Keigo personally, Aya." He looked at her amused.

"Ummâ€|Well, Fay will start working for Atobe-sama. Why do you care, anyway?" Aya asked exasperated. She was feeling awkward with both men there.

"Well, I will see you later my dearest Aya." He kissed her cheek and winked at Atobe, before he walked away.

* * *

><p>Fay was dancing with Yuushi when someone asked if he could have a dance with her. She nodded and changed with him. When she looked up at the man's face she froze instantly.<p>

"What...what are you...doing here?" she asked disbelievingly.

"I am dancing with you." the man smiled sweetly, and pulled her closer to him as he started dancing again.

Fay didn't talk to him and she didn't even look at him while they were dancing. When the music stopped she pulled away from him, she

looked at him again not believing that it was him, Niwa Tetsuya, there in front of her eyes. She walked away as tears welled up in her eyes.

Why is HE here, she screamed inwardly as she was walking to the balcony but someone caught her wrist. She turned and was shocked to see it was him again.

"I need to talk to you. Please, let me explain." he said sadly, he touched her cheek with the tips of his fingers and dried Fay's tears "I am so sorry I broke your heart."

"Are you?" she hissed pulling her hand out of his "If you were sorry Tetsuya, where the hell were you all this time, huh?" she snapped "You are a liar and a jerk. I don't even want to look at you." she walked away from him, stopped and turned back to him "How could you? Tell me? Explain!" she spat angrily her hands on her hips.

"I am sorry. It was a moment of weakness. We were lovers before I even met you." he said frowning deeply.

"That's your explanation?" she said exasperated "You really are a jerk. Not only have you cheated on me. But you cheat on with another man!" she hit him on the shoulder out of sheer anger "I cannot believe that even thought of talking to me again." she walked away fuming.

1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, oh! That was fast, he thought looking at Fay coming to him.

"Why did you talk to me today? Why cross your paths with me again?" She hissed glaring him dangerously.

"Because, I want you to forgive me and give me one more chance. I love you Fay." he said smiling lightly.

Fay was shocked at his confession; all her anger melted away with that simple phrase "You love me?" she whispered in disbelief, she looked at him "You love me?" She asked him and moved closer to him.

He nodded smiling gently.

SLAP

"You JERK!" She yelled at him "You love me? Are you joking! Nice way of showing your love Mr. Two-timing..." she said sarcastically "Oh! How much I hate you at the moment." she hissed "Do not come near me again..."

Niwa pulled her in his arms and kissed Fay passionately. Fay was too shocked to even move when she felt his lips on hers so unexpectedly. Her eyes were wide looking at his face. He bit her lower lip lightly and Fay opened her mouth lightly to protest but he plunged his tongue into her mouth and gently caressed her hot cavern battling with her tongue. She closed her eyes and snaked her hands around his neck, playing with his hair pulling him closer to her.

After a few moments into their passionate kiss that seemed like eternity they pulled away to allow themselves to breathe.

SLAP

"What was that for?" Niwa hissed shocked "I thought you liked it."

"You assume too much Niwa." she looked away "That was only something to remind you of what you lost the day you cheated on me." she glared at him "Do NOT even think of talking to me again." she said quietly, then she turned and walked away smiling to herself for getting her little revenge.

"Nice." Aya said smiling cheerfully as Fay past by her beside the balcony door "Two very fashionable slaps, a very passionate kiss and a pleased smile. Not bad." she laughed.

Fay looked at her "Well; I LOVED the first slap, thrilled that I got to slap him again. Enjoyed the kiss though, damn he is a good kisser." she pouted mockingly.

"Hehe...Well at least you got your revenge. I doubt that he will stop there though. He looked sincere when he said he loved you." Aya said as a matter-of-factly.

"Yeah right. He loves non other than that Nakajima guy he cheated on me with." Fay took a glass of Champagne from a passing waiter "Atobe really knows how to throw a party."

"This reminds me; please allow me to kill when we get home."

"Why?" Fay asked with a mock hurt look on her face "You aren't going to complain about the dress again are you?" she rolled her eyes and the look Aya gave her.

"Don't roll your eyes. I can't breathe." she whined.

"Here you go Aya." Arisa handed a glass of fruit-punch to Aya "Oh! Looks like the drama ended. How sad. What did I miss?" she grinned looking from one to the other.

"Nothing much, two slaps and one kiss." she Fay indifferently.

"Really? Aya, next time, you go get your drink." whined Arisa playfully.

"I would if I could." she glared at Fay with a smile.

Fay laughed at Aya's antics and looked at her drink "What's that fruit-punch? Are in High School or something? Big girl's drink Champagne." she grinned "Give me that." she took Aya's drink and gave to a passing waiter and asked him to bring her a glass of Champagne.

"You know I don't like drinking much." Aya complained to Fay before she stopped her childish antics looking at the men that approached them.

"Hello Ladies." said Yuushi smirking "Having a good time?" he asked kissing Arisa on the cheek.

"Yeah." All three answered at the same time and they all laughed.

"Aya, aren't you going to dance?" Yuushi asked with a devilish smirk.

She eyed him carefully "You know I don't like dancing very much." she answered indifferently.

"Here. Drink this." Fay offered Aya a Champagne glass.

"I don't like..."

"You whine too much." Fay rolled her eyes.

"Arn, you shouldn't force her to drink if she doesn't want too." Atobe snorted "Give me that." he took the Champagne glass from Aya.

"You guys, I am thirsty and you are playing with my drin..." she whined until she froze when she felt two hands circle her waist and pulling her to the dance-floor.

"Dance with me." Niwa said firmly.

"Why me?" Aya cried out in shock "Fay, come here." she pleaded before she was pulled between the crowds.

Fay and Oshitari looked shocked, Arisa was giggling and Atobe watched the scene while a frown adorned his face.

Aya was dancing with Niwa on the other side of the dance-floor "Why me? You know I don't enjoy dancing. Besides I am feeling uncomfortable in this dress." she complained frowning.

"First, don't frown. Second, you look very beautiful. Third, I need your help." Niwa said half laughing at Aya. He always liked her; she always was a good friend to him.

"And what makes you think I will help you?" she asked eyeing him "Fay has already found someone you know."

"It doesn't matter. Fay and I are meant to be." he smiled "So, can I count on your help?"

Aya looked at him wearily and thought for a second. She finally looked up at him and gave him a sweet smile. "No, I cannot help you, Niwa!" she said.

"Fine." He said firmly "I will do what I have to do alone."

"I will not be apart of this Niwa. What happened to Nakajima-san?"

"I said its fine Aya. As for Hide, he is fine too." He smiled.

"You are hopeless." Aya sighed "Anyway, I have to go." She said and left him standing in the middle of the dance-floor.

Aya returned to where her group of friends were "Sorry." She said sheepishly.

Fay grinned and hugged her. "It's alright, babe," she said swiftly, and held herself up a bit. "Uh-ohâ€¦ the floor's moving," she said, giggling.

Atobe caught her waist and helped her stand up. "I thinkâ€¦ I think someone had a bit too much to drink."

"Hmâ€¦" she murmured, putting her head on his shoulder. "You are so right," she agreed, closing her eyes.

Atobe rolled his eyes and looked at Aya. "Sawada-san, she's all yours." He moved Fay gently into Aya's hold. "Make sure she goes straight home and that she doesn't overdo it. I can offer you a ride, but will not be able to until the night ends."

Aya nodded, _that's very sweet of him, _she thought.

Atobe smiled and bowed. "It was a pleasure to have you attend my party Sawada-san." He kissed her hand, looked at Fay, frowned and walked away.

"Yuushi, I will go over to take are coats, could you drop us at home?" Aya pleaded holding Fay lightly.

"I would have loved to take you but I have to stay. Besides, we will be spending the night at my parents' house." He apologized.

"That's alright! I will drive you home Aya." The same voice she had heard earlier spoke.

"No. Anyone but you." Aya said exasperated, looking away.

"Oh, come on. Don't be such a baby." Niwa put his arm around Fay and dragged her towards the entrance of the manor to collect her coat. "You know you need me more than you want to admit. Plus, who's going to take care of my angel when she's like this," he said, holding Fay tightly.

Aya rolled her eyes and looked at Arisa, obviously annoyed.

"This should be fun." Arisa hugged Aya "Call me in the morning for details." She winked.

Aya frowned "Yeah. Loads of fun!" and she walked away.

The trip home was rather quiet. Aya didn't say anything as she held Fay who was sleeping on her shoulder. She glanced at Niwa and was wondering what he was thinking. "You're regretting it, aren't you?"

Niwa looked at her sudden question and smiled sadly. "Perhaps," he said softly, continuing to drive.

Aya didn't like his answer. It sounded sincere, and she didn't want to believe that Niwa Tetsuya had at least one degree of sincerity in him. She hated him and disliked him greatly for putting Fay through an emotional turmoil.

Finally, they reached their destination and Niwa carried the sleeping Fay while Aya led the way. "Is she eating properly?" Niwa asked, feeling how light Fay weighed.

"She pigs as she pleases," Aya confirmed, taking out her keys and unlocking the door.

Niwa let out a sigh and carried Fay inside; he put her down on her bed and took a minute to study her. Without thinking, he moved her hair off her face and kissed her forehead lightly.

Aya noticed the gesture and almost felt sorry for him, but she remembered how he had betrayed her. She remembered how upset Fay had been and how it had taken her a long time to start seeing other men again. Aya straightened her shoulder and talked. "Niwa, you can leave now."

Niwa moved a hand through his hair wearily and looked at her. "Ummâ€¦ Do you mind if I crash here tonight? I kind of live far away and have no energy to drive back home."

8. Chapter 8

****Mishima Fay****

Am I happy?

I wonder what happiness really is?

I never thought about it until recently. I don't even know why I started thinking about something so trivial; I have a great job, a fantastic roommate, a quiet life and a boyfriend who drives me crazy. Hmmâ€¦ I wonder if that is enough to say that you are happy. I guess not; I am not even satisfied with my life as it is.

It's been three weeks and a couple of days since I decided to completely devote myself to Niou Masaharu. A sigh just escaped my lips thinking of that man. I tapped my fingers on my desk as I tried to recollect how many times we actually had a normal date without fighting and yelling at each other.

I can't complain about the make out after the fights, but, never the less, this relationship is taking so much energy out of me. I looked at my desk and my pile of work as a frown formed on my lips. I picked up the sample I had on my desk. My team was supposed to make designs for a brochure that would represent our company worldwide. The design in my hands was definitely not what I asked for.

Damn it. I left the sample on my desk again and sighed deeply. My eyes wavered over to my mobile phone that was placed on the side of my desk. Why am I looking at it again, I scold myself. I seem to be scolding myself over a lot of things these days. I feel soâ€¦ I know I am not annoyed or angry; maybe I am just overreacting or maybe I am frustrated.

Aargh, my life was so much simpler without Masaharu in my life. I got up from my chair and walked to the window of my office and looked outside. I shuddered at the gloominess I was gazing; the sky seemed

to fit my mood today.

I lifted my hand and brushed my hair trying not to let my mind drift to a certain man that had been occupying my heart and mind a lot. I hated to admit that I thought of Sanada Genichirou more than my own boyfriend.

If I looked hard enough on the glass of the window I could see my image looking back at me.

I asked myself again; _Are you happy Fay?_

Can you be satisfied with your life as it is?

Will you ever let Masaharu have a place in your heart?

All these questions; and yet I had no answers. I guess I truly am frustrated. Walking back to my desk I picked up the phone and called my secretary.

I stormed into Atobes office fuming. "I'm not happy."

Atobe looked up at me from his desk and raised an eyebrow. He studied me as I stood there with my arms crossed and probably was wondering why he hired me since all I did was complain to him about every single thing I hated about my department. "Now what?"

"You said you were going to support me all the way."

He stood up and nodded. "True."

I sat down, crossing my legs. "Then with your permission I would like to fire the advertising agency that's been hired to work on our new look campaign."

Atobe let out a sigh and sat across me. "You do realize I hired that agency because they provided a very strong pitch."

"Crap, Atobe." I looked away annoyed. "They are very unprofessional and disorganized," I know I was being blunt but I was reaching my limits. "An agency is supposed to manage my time, not the other way around."

He rubbed his jaw. "You know that if we fire them now then we would be shooting ourselves in the foot."

"Yes, I realize that, but I will stake my job on that I will find a better and organized agency," I said confidently. "After all, you hired me because I am the best."

"And stubborn," he muttered, taking the paper I offered him. "Fay, I will need to look over these documents before I tell you yes or no, so I will need you to give me a day."

"Fine."

Atobe stood up and put the document on his desk. "I need a worst case scenario in case I said I won't fire them."

"I will ask for a new team then."

He nodded. "That's fine. You've been heard and I will look this through."

I stood up and bowed. "Thank you." I walked to the door, but he stopped me.

"Fay?"

I turned around to look at him and frowned for a second. I don't remember saying it was okay for him to call me by my first name, but smiled at him. "Yes?"

"A personal question."

I raised an eyebrow, expecting the worst.

"I tend to get straight to the point." He rubbed his jaw. "Your friend, Aya. Is she single or taken?" he said seriously.

I blinked thinking my ears failed me. "Eâ€| Excuse me?" Wait a minute? Did heâ€| is he interested inâ€|

"Sawada Aya, where does she stand in the dating scene?"

I frowned again and held my chin slightly. "You want to date my best friend?"

"Yes."

"You want to date my best friend, Aya?" I asked again, still trying to comprehend the situation.

"Yes."

I marched right up to him without knowing why I just became so defensive; Aya could easily handle someone like him. "You. The Heartbreaker. Want to date my best friend, Aya?" I demanded, poking his chest.

He took my hand and returned my gaze firmly. "Yes." I cannot believe the audacity of this person.

I snatched my hand from his and glared at him. "Not happening," I said and walked away.

"We will see," he whispered but I still managed to hear it.

What did I expect from my boss? Seriously, I was aware of his playboy attitude but to bring that sort of thing up when I was talking to him about work irritated me to no end. I went back to my office and sat in front of my computer typing away an answer to my team about their horrible work.

My phone rang and pulled me away from my disastrous thoughts. I picked it up and glanced at the caller ID. I smiled and answered. "Yuushi!"

"How is work treating you?" he asked me followed by his trademark chuckle.

"Did he call you?" I asked knowing that my idiot boss would have called him after our little meeting.

"Yeah, he wanted information on Aya," he responded to me. "I told him she is seeing someone, so I guess he will leave the matter alone."

I rolled my eyes not believing the things he was telling me. "Yuushi, why don't you bring Arisa over and we can all have dinner?" I asked as I returned to browsing my emails.

"Sure. I'll see you later than." He hung up. I hated people hanging up on me but that was just how he would act so I brushed it off.

I left the office 3 hours later feeling tired. I was going to have a shower the moment I reach home; I was feeling so sticky, it grossed me.

* * *

><p>(Fay's apartment)

I walked in my apartment after an hour of freaking traffic. I was tired and wanted just to relax. I walked into my room since I knew that Aya wasn't back from work yet and threw my bag somewhere. I sighed and scratched my head trying to decide what I wanted to do next, sleep or bathe.

I looked at my bed and felt my limbs go numb. I guess it was easy to understand what my body needed most. I took my clothes off and wore my pink pajamas. I jumped on my bed and got under the covers. It was so soft and I was so tired; I fell asleep in no time.

I woke up after a good few hours and looked at my clock on the side-table; I rubbed my eyes and looked again. 10 pm; I dropped my head on the pillow feeling weary. I was sure that Niou called me but I didn't hear my phone ring. I was lucky Yuushi canceled on me, because I think I would have had them wait outside the apartment until I woke. I chuckled with that thought.

(Flashback)

"_So, had fun today?" Niou caressed Fay's cheek lightly before kissing her._

"_Yeah. I had a great time," she giggled. "The movie was very funny." She hugged his arm and they both walked to his car._

I shifted in my bed; I decided to just stay in bed, since it was already that late. I didn't even mind my stomach screaming to be fed. I was drained from all energy.

(Flashback)

_The radio was playing a soft song and the car windows were fogged by the heat produced in the cabin. __I__ was in Niou's arms and __we__ were kissing passionately. __I__ had __my__ hands around his neck and was trailing kisses along his jaw line. He had one hand around __my__ back to __hold me__ firm in his arms and his other hand was caressing __my__ silky hair.__ I__ stopped __my__ kisses and

looked at him through half lidded eyes. _

_The hand that was caressing __my__ hair moved slowly, gently towards __my__ chin. He drew __me__ close for a kiss. _

"Argh! That man frustrates me," I yelled hiding my face on the pillow.

My mind kept remembering our previous dates; I could never understand why I chose to be in such a difficult relationship. It almost feels like me and him are always on a different wave-length. My relationship seems to run around in a complete circle; we fight than make out and back to fighting again. I need to know who Niou Masaharu is, but how can I do that without killing him or myself in the process.

(Flashback)

_I __had allowed his hands to roam more than __I __used to and even accepted the feel of his hand under __my__ shirt. "Niou!" __I__ murmured against his lips __as I sat on his lap in his car__._

_He smirked and pulled __me__ even closer, but his car phone interrupted __us__. __I __moved __my __lips away, but he pulled __me__ back. "Ignore it," he said__, bringing my lips closer to his__._

_I moved my face away. __"It could be important."_

_"I should know what's important or not," __he muttered, trying to steal baby kisses from me. _

_I glared at him and he swore softly __as he__ put __the__ speaker on. "Hello?"_

"Haru~"

_I immediately__ raised an eyebrow at the playful female voice._

Niou coughed. "Yes?"

"Did you forget about me?" she purred.

_I__ looked at him, but he kept an innocent look on his face. _

"Do I know you?" he asked bluntly.

The female giggled. "Of course, you were with me not long ago and I kept you well entertained in my!"

_Niou picked up the phone and swore softly. "Stop calling me!" He hung up the phone with slam. He turned his gaze to __me__ and cleared his throat. "Now!" he whispered, hugging __me__; "Where were we!" he said, pulling __my __head down for a kiss._

_I __moved __my__ head and __moved to my__ seat. "You were dropping me home," __I__ said flatly._

He raised an eyebrow. "You don't think that I!"

_"That's the problem, Niou," __I__ said, crossing __my__ arms. "As much as I am trying with you, I just don't know." __I__ looked away annoyed. "We're only physical with each other; I'm trying to get to know you better."_

"Don't blame me for that!" he said. "Every time I try to get to know why you're feeling down, you don't want to talk about it! Stop being a spoilt brat and tell me what's making you upset."

_I__ glared at him._

_"Don't glare at me," he snapped, glaring back at __me__. "You're making this more difficult for me. I have never been in such a complicated relationship before." _

"Then don't be in a relationship with me!"

He started his car aggravated. "Cheâ€¦!" He reversed the car and started driving. "You're always bitter when you're around with me."

"I. AM. TRYING. NIOU!"

"No, you're not," he remarked. "If you were trying to get close to me then you would know more about me!" he said sharply. "For heaven's sake, Fay! You still don't call me by my first name!"

I sighed helplessly, remembering that. _We always end up fighting at the end; why? Why can't I trust him? Why can't I open up to him?_ I got up from the bed, took a towel and some clothes and walked to the bathroom. _A shower is what I need to calm my nerves down._

I didn't really want to admit to myself that I wasn't really helping out in this relationship, but I was trying my best. What I did wonder was why didn't I want to leave him. That was one of the things that confused me about myself.

I looked at the mirror carefully. I frowned deeply; my hair was messy and my face looked wrinkled. _I look like a hag_, I thought, removing my clothes.

I walked into the shower and let the water wash away my weariness. I didn't think it would help much but I was in no state to argue with myself. Suddenly, without thinking, my mind played another trick on me as I remembered one of the nights we had gone out together.

(Flashback)

_Niou held __me__ tightly as __we__ danced in the half empty club.

_

_"I like this. The way we are now." __I__ opened __my__ eyes and moved closer into his arms. "It's peaceful."_

_Niou leaned his head so that it rested on __my__ shoulder by the forehead. He chuckled and kissed __my__ neck tenderly._

_I__ put __my__ arms around his neck and stretched __my__ arms up as

he gave __me__ small kisses. The atmosphere was dark and quiet. It felt like __we__ were away from prying eyes and __I__ was comfortable with him, just dancing there. _

"Why can't we be like that every day?" I sighed, "Niou, why the hell are you making things so difficult?" I lifted my head and let the water splash on my face. Again I was blaming him for our disastrous relationship.

We're always arguing! We make outâ€¦. we argueâ€¦ then we make out! I don't even know how many brothers and sisters he has! Or if he is a single child! I don't know anything about himâ€¦ But when I think about why I don't know I realize it is because I never cared to ask and yet I still want him as a boyfriend.

I closed the water and walked out of the shower. I dried myself and wore a clean set of pajamas. My stomach growled so I decided to feed since I was up. I knew it was a bad Idea to eat this late and then go to sleep but I really couldn't care less at the moment.

I exited my room and walked to the kitchen; to my surprise I found food on the table obviously for me. I sat down and started to eat; the food was hot. I was surprise at first but my mind decided to begin to work. It was Aya who had made dinner for me and she obviously came to my room to wake me up but I was in the shower. I smiled feeling all giddy inside; I loved that girl with all my heart.

As soon I finished with my dinner I washed the plates and poured some orange juice in a glass. My ears perked hearing the faint sounds that came from the living room. Aya was probably watching a movie. I opened the cabinet again and took a second glass out.

I poured some apricot juice and took a bag of marshmallows. It was weird how I knew that girls likes and dislikes. I walked into the living room and sat next to her on the couch. She was watching a war movie; I rolled my ways and passed her the bag of sweets.

"Thank you," she said with a smile. "Should I put on something that you would like to watch with me?"

"Nahâ€¦ I'll just stay with you for a while and then go to bed," I said picking up my juice from the table.

I sat and saw the rest of the movie with her; apparently it was a very good movie and I wished I had watched it from the beginning. I heard my phone ring so I got up from the couch and stretched my body.

"Goodnight sweetie," I said as I moved around the couch, "I will see you tomorrow morning."

Aya dropped her head backwards with a smile as she bid me goodnight too. I walked in my room and fished my phone out of my bag. I had 3 missed calls from Niou. I lay on my bed and dialed his number. He wasn't answering so I thought he was angry at me for not responding to his calls.

"What?"

I suddenly heard his gruff voice answering my call. "I'm sorry I missed your calls." Was the first thing that came to my mind. "I came home from work and fell asleep instantly." I didn't even know why I was apologizing but it felt right at the moment.

"Whatever," he mumbled, "Did you wake up now?" he asked me shortly.

I closed my eyes and told him about my day, my complaints about work and whatever could come to my mind. He listened to me; maybe that's why I wanted to have him around. He was always a good listener.

"Ummâ€¦ Masaharu, I was wondering if you would like to come over tomorrow." I suddenly asked out of the blue. I was feeling comfortable at the moment, talking to him about my problems.

"Sure, I'd love too," he said sounding obviously happy about my invitation.

I tried to stifle a yawn as we continued to talk over the phone. He must have understood that I was starting to feel sleepy. I guess he knew me in ways I could never know him; maybe I should try harder. I should try harder to learn about this man; Niou Masaharu.

"Babe, I hear you yawn, so I will let you go to sleep," he said, "Do not dream about anyone else but me."

I laughed at his last statement. "I won't. I promise. Sweet dreams Masaharu. I will call you tomorrow," I said and we hang up.

I placed my phone on my side-table and turned the light off. I pulled the covers over my body and closed my eyes tiredly. Tomorrow I would try to make it a nice memory for me and him; at least I would try.

I guess happiness was still a farfetched dream for me, but I think that I should be the one to chase after it instead of waiting for it to come my way.

9. Chapter 9

****Niou Masaharu****

Am I happy?

Argh! She frustrates meâ€¦!

"Masaharu."

I looked up when I heard my name and found Sanada in front of me. He had his normal frowning face, but there was a slight concern on it. I couldn't tell what it was, but I had to ask. "What is it?"

"What's wrong? You weren't concentrating at all in the last meeting."

What's wrong? What's wrong? He asks me what's wrong. I rubbed my head gently and let out a weary sigh. What's wrong is that I think my girlfriend is in love with you. That's what's wrong.

I just muttered something under my breath and he got the point, leaving the room. It's been a month since Fay and I met again at the ski resort and we've been trying.

Though, lately, I'm pissed off.

Tuning around, I looked outside the window as I rested my back on the wall and stared below. I haven't seen her since a week because of her stupid job and I'm not even sure where we stand "relationship wise. I won't deny that she doesn't boil my blood, but is that enough?

Am I happy just like that?

I let out another weary sigh and closed my eyes. Just as I did, I felt my phone vibrate in my pocket. I pulled it out and realize that it was a text message. There were actually three that I hadn't seen.

Haru! What do I get Sanada for Valentine's? " Aya.

I skipped that one, ignoring it at the moment and went to the next.

Dinner is Saturday instead of Friday, same place and time " Hiroshi.

Damnit! There goes my Saturday plan. Saturday is the only day that Fay is free this week. Maybe I should take her with me to the dinner? No, Sanada will be there. ARGH!

I shook my head and just replied a quick 'ok' to Hiroshi and went to the next message.

I'm in a boring meeting and two minutes away from killing the agency's director " Fay

I chuckled and smirked a bit.

Want me to make you laugh? " Niou

No" No" I'll embarrass myself! Anyway, how have you been? " Fay

Tired. " Niou

Oh. Is Sanada working you hard? " Fay.

What the hell? Why is Sanada even in this conversation? She's driving me crazy. I rubbed my temple with my free hand and decided to ignore the comment.

Free for me tonight? " Niou

Actually I am. My meeting got cancelled. Where do you want to meet? " Fay

Where do I want to meet? I just want us to relax and not fight. Why do we always fight? Why do you make me lose my temper with you? I

tend to get very impatient when I'm around you.

Do you want to go someplace quiet? I'm not in the mood of a crowd tonight. â€" Niou

I don't mind. I'm very tired and would like to relax. What do you have I mind? â€" Fay

So my baby's tired. Where do you take a woman when she's feeling tired? I could always bring her back to my place, but not when a certain roommate is around. Damn it! Why am I getting paranoid over this?!

You choose. â€" Niou

Want to come over? I'll cook. â€" Fay.

I have to admit that that surprised me. We've been together for almost a month and I've never gotten a proper invite to her apartment yet â€" and no, Aya doesn't count. That brings me to another frustration. We're physically attracted to each other, but I always sense her withdrawal after a bitâ€¦ I wonder what she's thinking. I decided to send a quick reply and not think of anything anymore.

Okay. â€" Niou

* * *

><p>Fay's Apartment - Evening

It surprises me how I always tend to forget my frustrations for a while when I see her. The minute she opened the door, I was reminded of how much I missed her.

"Hey, stranger," she said with a smile.

"Hey." I leaned forward, kissing her cheek.

She invited me in after that and I couldn't help, but chuckle at her attire for she was dressed in pajamas. They were shorts with a long sleeve 'boyfriend' short and she had fluffy slippers on. "I'm going to get changed," she said, turning to look at me.

Her statement made me stop. "It's okay, Fay. What you're wearing is fine."

She looked taken aback, but ended up nodding. "Thanks," she said, walking to the kitchen which was part of the living room.

I leaned on the stool and watched her as she checked the pot on the stoves. "How's work?" I asked. I had promised myself that I wouldn't ask, but it ended up coming out.

"It's okay, I guess, but really tiring. Atobe seriously has no mercy in his bones, but I like the challenge." She flicked a glance at me as she pushed a stray hair away from her face.

I frowned. I knew what a workaholic ass Atobe Keigo was. What bothered me was that my woman was at the receiving end of it. I could

state my disapproval, but I knew that it would only lead to an argument, so I decided to keep my mouth shut for now.

"Niou?"

I looked up and found her watching me carefully. When I didn't say anything, she moved towards me and put her hand on my forehead. "You look worn-out."

I sighed and took her hand. "You and me both, babe," I said, kissing her wrist gently.

She cupped the side of my face and smiled. "Let's eat and then relax on the couch."

"Sounds great."

Dinner went fast. Mishima Fay was a good cook, which I liked about her. She had cooked a lot of dishes and out of courtesy I tried them all. After dinner, I helped her clean up and then we both retired to the living room. "What do you want to do?" I asked as she plopped herself next to me.

She hugged my arms and placed it on my shoulder. "I don't know," she admitted, "I'mâ€¦" [Yawn].

I chuckled and put my arm around her shoulder. "If you want to sleep, you can do so."

"No, butâ€¦" [Yawn]â€¦ Damnit. I'm sorry." [Yawn]

I held my laughter in and pushed her to lie down on my lap. "Sleep," I ordered as I moved my fingers through her long hair.

Fay moved her head up, but I didn't let her. "Butâ€¦"

"No, but. I'm as tired, so I'll just sleep as well."

"Butâ€¦"

"Fay!"

"Wait, damnit!" she snapped. "I want to get up to get us a blanket and a pillow."

Oh. Ok. "Alright! Alright!" I said, letting go of her head.

She stood up, but then stopped.

I felt her hesitate as she looked at me. "Ummâ€¦ Don't get the wrong idea, but let's just go to my room."

I looked at her. I knew what my eyes reflected. Also, I knew what would happen, so as stupid as I am, I shook my head. "I don't trust myself on your bed, Fay," I admitted. "Let's just lounge here."

She looked at me in surprise, but didn't say anything. As she walked to the linen closet, I stood up and took off my sweater. I kept my shirt on and scratched my hair.

Fay brought the things and placed them on the sofa. Before she lay down, I got an urge to kiss her, so I placed my arm around her waist and kissed her lips lightly. "You need to relax more."

She hugged my waist and nodded. "Yes, sir."

I could feel my heart beating faster at her closeness. Her scent was something imprinted in my head and it began triggering my body as it usually does. I pushed her away in a gentle manner and sat on the couch.

I woke up as I felt something touch me. Opening my eyes, I realized that someone had placed a blanket on me. I looked to my side and found Aya standing there and watching me, or moreover watching _us.

—

"Heyâ€|" I said in a croaky voice. I cleared my voice and moved to sit up but found Fay hugging my waist tightly. I decided not to move, I knew how tired she has been. I looked up at Aya and grinned. "I can't move."

She chuckled and sat on the table in front of me. "Why are you two sleeping here?"

I scratched my head and yawned. "We fell asleep I guess," I mumbled. There was no way in hell I was telling Aya that I didn't trust myself on Fay's bed. I looked at Fay who was sleeping peacefully in front of me and smiled. "Who would've thought that she'd look so innocent when asleep?"

Aya pushed her tongue out, but then nodded. "True."

I stretched my body and turned my attention back at Aya, "And you my dearâ€| where were you?"

She immediately blushed and looked at her hands. "I was with Sanada having dinner."

"I see."

Aya smiled dreamily and then looked at me. "Do you have plans for Valentine's?"

I scowled at the thought. "I don't believe in that crap."

"But I do!"

I didn't say anything. I wasn't really fond of that day. I don't even remember ever celebrating it. I'm not even expecting for Fay to have any expectations for that day unless stupid Aya puts it into her head.

"Haru!"

"Drop it, Aya," I muttered moving Fay's hands gently from around my waist so I could sit up. I scratched my hair and stood up stretching my arms over my head. "I'm going to call it a night."

"Don't leave yet, why don't you just stay together in her room

tonight."

"I have to wake up early" I answered. Frankly, I needed an invitation from Fay. I don't think she'll be happy if she sees me sleeping next to her on her bed in the morning.

"Haruâ€¦"

I put my sweater on and just looked at her. I felt that Aya wanted to say more but she stopped. I knew she was really trying hard to get Fay and me together but you can't force these things. It was frustratingâ€¦ it made me wonder all the time if I wanted to dig deeper into this relationship. I'm still feeling paranoid when I see Fay with Genichirou and I still wonder about them.

I decided to leave for now and walked out of the door, bidding Aya well. However, I still wonderedâ€¦

Am I really happy?

10. Chapter 10

****Sanada Genichirou****

6th February

Am I happy?

I wonder why I even asked this question to myself. Unfortunately I do not have an answer to that. I am still at the office trying to finish something for an upcoming trial and yet I am writing on a diary I haven't written in years. I flicked the pages earlier to check on the last date of my entry and it was 16th March, four years ago.

If anyone would ask me why I have kept the diary for so long I really wouldn't know what to answer them. Why did I decide to write my thoughts in here again? That is a question I can actually answer. It's because I am so confused with my life and I need to clear my head before I do a terrible and irreversible mistake that would ruin everything I ever worked for.

Going back to a couple of months when I met my current girlfriend I wonder how and why I got so tangled in a relationship that I don't want to be in. My girlfriend is not the problem. She is a lovely person, with a gentle heart. I thought I fell in love with her when I heard her sing in that club Masaharu took me, but unfortunately it was nothing more than an infatuation. So basically I am the problem.

I really like being around her; her ever cheerful character is a good influence for me. I am very comfortable when we spend time together but it feels like I am with a very good friend or my little sister. Why can't I see her as a woman? Why was it that I couldn't tear my eyes off of her when she was performing on stage? Why didn't I feel any different when we sat together and got to know each other?

Questions that have no actual answer; but the most important question is why am I so deeply in love with her best friend? I didn't even

like her when I met her for the first time that same night at the club. Mishima Fay. To me she seemed like a woman who would sleep around with anyone if she got the chance and she did show a very aggressive character when she interacted with Masaharu.

Well, Masaharu was Masaharu and he would never change, but that really didn't matter. I didn't like her. I couldn't care less about her being there or not. I was sure that I had fallen for Aya, but I think that the Gods must not like me that much if they played such a cruel game on me.

The first date I was so looking for with the girl I met was disastrous since by a sheer twist of fate I ended up spending my night with the person I least wanted to see. I really don't know what possessed me and suggested that we should go to the restaurant anyway; but we went; and the worst part was that I had a great time.

I even went out of my way and kissed her under the mistletoe. It's weird how I remember of that first date like it was yesterday. Mishima Fay. She was someone I didn't like when I first met her but I ended up falling madly in love with her.

I can't stop these feelings and yet my current girlfriend is Aya while Fay is my own best friend's girlfriend. I cannot understand how and why I got myself into this huge mess but after our last interaction I haven't seen her; not even for a few seconds. It's as if we are trying to stay away from each other.

I can't stop thinking about the kiss we shared in that ski resort and the confession I made to her. I guess I acted like a complete fool. I really need to move on and stop tormenting myself and Aya. I would have broken off with her but I really can't get myself to do so. I really don't want to break her heart because she is such a sweet person; but I know that if I do tell her I want to break our relationship it would sadden her; and I could never call myself a man if I ever did such a thing.

But I can't pretend to love her either. That is even worse I think. When I was younger life was much simpler. I used to keep my distance from people so I could prevent myself from getting hurt. I really do think that I am a very selfish man. I know I have flaws, so I guess that's one of them.

Coming back to my current predicament, I really can't understand why on Earth I would buy a Valentine's gift for Fay. Not to mention I also bought a card to match it. Don't get me wrong, I did get a gift for my girlfriend. It's really a stupid gift if you think about it, but I bought it on impulse. I will not give her the gift because that would complicate things and I wouldn't want to ruin my relationship with Masaharu or even hurt him, since I can see that he is really in love with her.

But it seems that their relationship isn't going well for him. I know he is trying and I have seen him agonize about the outcome, but for some reason Fay is not helping him. I really don't know why because she did say that she would try but instead she is totally driving him crazy. If she doesn't want to be with him, why is she holding on to him?

I don't know the answer to that question either. It seems that I don't have answers for anything these days. I am losing my resolve as a person. I hope that by letting everything out on these pages I can calm my frustration and finally be able to concentrate on my relationship with Aya. I know that if I stay with her she will never hurt me but can I say the same for me?

I really don't want to think of the past but my mind keeps thinking about the pain I felt when my first love left me to marry someone else. She was the one person that changed me and she was the one person that destroyed me.

That's why no matter what I do in this life I want to prevent myself from hurting someone. I think that all people love and all people hurt some more some less; so who am I to complain about my pain and my losses. I believe that all that I have left from my first real relationship are the good moments that I shared with that woman, rather than the pain she caused me.

I still can't figure out why I am thinking about all this. My life is different right now and my experiences helped me become the man I am today. That why am I not feeling satisfied?

Satisfiedâ€| Happyâ€| To me they are just two words I wrote on this page. Seiichi once asked me why I don't fight for my happiness; I never did answer him. I guess I didn't know at that time, but if he were to ask me now again I would probably tell him that my happiness lies with someone out of my reach.

I know I am returning my thoughts to her. Mishima Fay. I feel as if her name is carved into my heart and imprinted into my mind. Her whole presence is intoxicating; everything about her amazes me. I believe that she is the woman that could make feel satisfied and happy butâ€|

I read the card I bought for her for Valentine's; it was funny to find a card that could pour all your emotions and feelings in it. I will write exactly the words written in the card as those would have been the words that I would want to tell her.

(Page One)

A special message
>for the One I Love
on Valentine's Day

and always

(Page Two)

I wish that we could
>spend each day and
every night together...

(Page Three)

...safe and warm
>in each other's arms
and stay this close, forever

(Page Four)

You're in my heart

>and in my thoughts
each hour of every day...

(Page Five)

...and no one else
>in all the world...<p>

(Page Six)

...could make me
>feel this way...<p>

(Page Seven)

...you mean the world to me

Happy Valentine's Day
>with all my love<p>

I guess I will just hide the gift and card away; I will pretend I never did get her anything since it's obvious that nothing is ever going to happen between us. So, I swore on this diary that has followed through some important days of my life that I will focus my mind on Aya from now on.

I will start by making this Valentine's special for her.

Well, this is the end of my entry. I better finish my work since it's already getting late.

Genichirou

11. Chapter 11

****Sawada Aya****

Am I happy?

I fell down on the sofa and let out a sigh. Normally, it would take a lot to make me sad but today I just felt like being a bit depressed. Lately, I'm not sure what's happening around me. Sanada's been distant as usual, Fay's at work most of the day and night and Haru's been too busy with his own problems.

This brings me to my main questionâ€¦|

Am I happy?

I'm not sure if I am happy. I don't know in what type of relationship I was. I have a handsome man that I'm dating, but he's very emotionless and withdrawn. I mean, it took him quite sometime until he kissed me. It makes me wonder if I'm physically unattractive.

Nahâ€¦|

That's not it.

Then what's the problem?

My problem is that I feel more like a friend to Sanada than his girlfriend. We've been out on many dates but I still feel his withdrawal. We hug, kiss and hold hands but stillâ€¦ I feel that there's something missing. I feel terrible for having these thoughts, but sometimesâ€¦ My head hurts. I'm not even sure I can talk to Fay about this because I know she's having problems with Haru.

I picked up the notepad from the table and stared at the blank pages. Normally I could pour my hearts out into writing a song, but I couldn't find any inspiration at the moment, for my emotions were all over the place.

I threw the notepad on the table and picked up my cell phone. I needed a cheerful person to talk to. And noâ€¦ grumpy and a workaholic did not count this time. I quickly dialed a number and waited for the person to pick up. "Hello?"

"Haru!"

He chuckled, "Hey Aya," he murmured.

I heard shifting in the background and wanted to speak, but he interrupted me. "You need to make it quick, babe. Is this social or business?"

I raised an eyebrow at his comment. _Greatâ€¦ The one person who can cheer me up is too busy for me. _"Ummâ€¦ Actually, I wanted to see you."

"Oh? You want to cheat on my best friend?" he chuckled.

I rolled my eyes at his statement, "You know what I mean," I said in a hurried fashion. I don't know what possessed me to ask him that. I really was feeling down and I was sure that he would be the only one to cheer me up.

"Are you down because it's Valentine's Day tomorrow?"

I let out a sigh and fell on the sofa. _Stupid Valentine'sâ€¦ how could I enjoy Valentine's with someone like Sanada?_ I thought sarcastically. I shifted in my place and placed my head on the sofa's arm rest.

"Aya, you went quite."

I closed my eyes. "No, I just wanted to have fun," I admitted, rubbing my face. "Sanada's busy and Fay will be working tonight."

Niou didn't say anything about my remark. "So what do you want to do then?"

I sat up joyfully when he said that. "Seriously? You're free? You won't ditch me for work or your girlfriend?"

He gave a sarcastic laughter, "It's the other way round when it comes to my girl," he muttered, and then he cleared his throat. "I'll meet you at the mall around 7, be good babe," he said, hanging up.

I smiled and kept my eyes closed. _I think I will nap a bit._

As I made my way through the mall, the heart shaped red everywhere around me made me feel vulnerable. I know I was an idiot because this holiday was special to me. All my life, during school, university and work I had wanted a special Valentine's Day, but it always backfired. Truthfully, I think I'm a bit down in the dumps because I don't think it's going to happen with Sanada either.

I'm so confusedâ€¦

I remember that my friends were always making fun of me because of the big deal I made for this holiday. However, as the years went by, I sort of started feeling like them â€" it wasn't special anymore. _Stupid clichÃ© holiday, _I swore, looking around for Niou.

I stood by the cinema, knowing that he might actually want to watch a movie and decided to wait for him by the lamppost. As I leaned against it, I heardâ€¦ "Yo."

I felt his hair tickle my cheek and I chuckled at the ticklish effect. I turned around and saw the devilish smile on his face. I'm not sure what it was, but lately, he had been a good friend. Even one of the bestâ€¦ "Haru."

He laughed, kissing my cheek and then smiled. "I am still not used to that name," he admitted, watching me.

I looked up at him with a joyful smile and then just let out a sigh. "So, what do you want to do?"

He eyed me carefully, making me almost feel uncomfortable and rubbed his jaw. "Shall we just walk around?" he asked, taking my wrist and leading me towards the centre of the mall. "Are you really down, Aya?"

His question staggered me, but at the same time, I knew that he wasn't someone I could conceal my feelings in front of. "I justâ€¦ I really hate the 14th, Haru," I admitted inaudibly. I didn't want to say it out loud because I didn't want another person to tell me that it was a stupid holiday, but damnit! It was important to me.

"High expectations?"

I blinked, looking at him. I wasn't sure where this was goingâ€¦

Niou bent down and peered into my face, "Do you have high expectations of Sanada tomorrow?"

His blunt question made me blush. I turned my face and then sighed yet again. I looked at him straight in the face. "You tell me," I said courageously enough without allowing my voice to tremble.

Niou eyed me seriously. We both looked at each other until he looked away and smiled. "I think you shouldn't give him the benefit of the doubt, he might just surprise you." He winked at me.

I looked at him suspiciously. I felt a slight flutter in my tummy, but I didn't want to give myself high hopes, for I didn't know what

to expect of Sanada. I finally decided that it's awkward now, so I changed the subject. "Ummâ€¦ Are you doing anything?"

Niou picked up a magazine from a brochure advertising stand and flipped through it.

I looked at him knowingly and poked him. I knew that Fay was not on his favorite subject list at the moment. "Don't ignore my question."

He closed the brochure with both hands and looked at me seriously. "No, to be honest and I don't think she's expecting something." He kept on walking and I followed him. "Let's not talk about them, Aya."

"No! If Fay's not expecting anything, then surprise her, damnit! Even that idiot Niwa used to do something for her."

He looked at me in surprise, backing off a bit. "Why is this holiday so important to you? And what does it matter to you what I do for Fay?"

"Becauseâ€¦" I said, and then snapped. "Because it's important! She is working all day and she NEEDS you to show her how special she feelsâ€¦"

"What about my needs?" he muttered.

"It's a two-way situation, Haru," I told him seriously. "The least you could do is show her that you care and not fightâ€¦ at least tomorrow."

"I'll think about it," he finally said, walking ahead.

"Butâ€¦"

"No more, Aya." He looked at me sharply. "I want us to have dinner now. I'm here to spend time with you tonight, so let's not discuss Fayâ€¦ or Sanada."

I closed my mouth and decided to follow him. He had managed to dampen my mood a bit and I didn't like the situation. I wondered why men were really stupid when it came to special days.

"Before you say anything, Aya, I'm going to say one thing," Niou said, "I believe everyday can be special, Fay and I are just not there yet," he explained, walking into a restaurant. "I don't want to do something on a clichÃ© holiday and that's the end of that."

I looked at him with admiration and grinned. I just sat down quietly and lifted the menu. Sometimes I wished that Sanada had the same attitude as Niou. I'm not comparing them, but it would be nice if I just feltâ€¦ wanted or loved during an outing with Sanada.

I put my menu down and lay my elbows on the table as I rested my chin on my hands, "I'm depressed."

"No, you're not. You're just lonely because your boyfriend and best friend are neglecting you," he answered swiftly, not taking his eyes off the menu.

"You're not helping."

He moved his hand and ruffled my hair. "I'm not planning on helping, I've been with you for an hour and all you've done is whine," he said with a smirk. "Tell me something, Ayaâ€¦ Did you buy Sanada something?"

I looked at him curiously, "Eh?"

He grinned and rubbed a hand through his hair. "Is Valentine's seriously a one sided thing? If Sanada gives you a gift, don't you think he will be expecting something in return?"

I looked at him peculiarly, "Ummâ€¦ I don't think so."

"Don't assume you don't think so," he said sharply, "You just don't know."

I looked at him exasperatedâ€¦ "Don't you think it's embarrassing if I give him and he doesn't?"

"Simple, just don't give him the gift until he gives it to you."

"And if he doesn't I'm stuck with it."

"Not when I'm your best friend."

I slapped his arm exasperated. "Then eat your food fast so we can pick something out for him."

He didn't say anything.

"No."

Niou looked at me, "What do you mean no? I said buy him something, I didn't say be damn picky about it."

I crossed my arms and shook my head. I knew I was being picky, but damnit, I wanted something special. "It has to be special."

"He won't care, Aya," he put the sweater back and began browsing for other things. "He'll be happy with anything you give him."

"Butâ€¦"

"No," he muttered, moving a hand through his hair.

"You knowâ€¦" I began, pushing him away from the store. "You get lost and get Fay something. I need to do this on my own," I admitted. "I can't do this with your constant nagging."

"Excuse me?"

I shooed him with my hand. "Just give me half an hour and I'll meet you."

"Che," he muttered, walking out.

_I hope I didn't offend him, but I just couldn't concentrate with his whining. I needed to think and know exactly what I want. I was determined to make tomorrow special even if it kills me. _

I wasn't expecting any special night or closure, but I knew I could make the day as a beautiful memory. _Butâ€| he still hasn't called meâ€| _I thought, looking at my cell phone.

And as if my phone had sent him a subliminal message, it rang. _Ohâ€| _I looked at the caller ID and noticed that it was him.
"Hello?"

"Hi, Aya."

I smiled at his voice. It was such a strong and powerful voice that it always made me shivers. He was definitely what you call 'all man'.
"Hello," I said cheerfully, browsing around the store.

"How are you?"

"I'm good," I replied, moving my free hand through the stack of shirts while the other held onto the cell phone. "I'm just doing some last minute shopping."

"Ohâ€|" he said. After a few minutes, he cleared his throat and spoke. "Are you free tomorrow?"

I felt giddy inside and decided to ask him out straight. "For?"

"A whole day, Aya," he said softly. "I know it's special to you."

The statement made me halt in my steps. _I know it's special to you? Ummâ€| _it made me stop and think. Wasn't it special to him? Was he doing this out of obligation? Was I thinking too much into this?

"Aya?"

I snapped out of my thoughts and looked at my cell phone. Sighing, I placed it on my ear and spoke into it. "I'm free, what do you have in mind?"

As he spoke, a lot of things went through my mind. I walked around the store listening to him and still wonderedâ€| was I really happy? Sanada Genichirouâ€| what do you have in store for me? What does the future hold for us? At this stage of our time together, I started thinking again.

Am I really happy?

12. Chapter 12

Fay stared at her phone in disbelief. She blinked, trying to figure out if what she had heard was correct. _I know I'm overworked, but this can't be true! _She thought, placing the phone back to her ear.
"Ummâ€| "

"Did my request really surprise you?"

Fay leaned on her chair and bit her lip. "I'm not surprised, it's just weird."

Niou chuckled, "Fayâ€¦ All I asked you was to get your hair and makeup done after work, what's so peculiar about that?"

She stood up from her desk and walked towards the door when she noticed that her personal assistant was waiting for her with a folder. Fay took the folder from her and flipped through it. "Niou, it's plain weird, I feel like I'm going to do something I'll regret."

He sighed, "Just enlighten me this time and do something I asked from you."

She closed the folder and walked out. _Maybeâ€¦ he has his reasons. _"You knowâ€¦ I'll indulge your request this time."

"Great," he said cheerfully. "And babe, let your hair down." He bid her well and then hung up.

Fay stared at the phone again and frowned. _That man's not normal, _she thought shaking her head.

"Smile, Mishima, we're going into a very boring meeting," Atobe said, appearing by her side. He walked with her towards the board room in silence.

Fay looked at him with a slight glower. _Should I ask him? _She thought, eyeing him. "Atobeâ€¦"

"Yes?" he looked at her seriously.

Fay shook her head and sighed. "Never mind," she muttered, _I guess all men are odd._

* * *

><p>(Aya's & Fay's apartment)

Aya looked at her closet and frowned. _I never worry about my clothes, why am I PANICKING?! _She thought looked at her half empty closet whilst her other half was on the floor. _I never realized that everything I own were pantsâ€¦ no wonder Fay always scolds me. _She rushed out of her room and went to Fay's. Opening the closet, she noticed a lot of dresses in there.

_But what do I wear?! _

She moved her hands through the dresses and didn't know what to wear. Taking out a red cloth, she stared at it and looked at it peculiarly from all angles. _What the hell is this supposed to be? _She thought horrified. _Oh my god! Sanada will be here and I'm still not dressed! I wanted to surprise him today and look at least different._

She ran back to her room and picked up her cell phone. She quickly dialed Fay's number, but no luck. She tried several times, but still no response. She dialed Arisa's and finally someone picked up. "You

have got to help me!"

Arisa chuckled, "What's wrong, sweetie?"

"Don't talk to me like you do to Yuushi. My date will be here in twenty minutes and I'm not even dressed! I don't know what to wear or even pick a dress from Fay's closet," she said hurriedly, pacing around the room.

"Aya, its afternoon. Why are you even thinking of wearing a dress?"

Aya stopped in her position and frowned. _I wanted to be different today. _"Ummâ€|"

"Don't worry, I know what to do. I'm sure you wanted to look unique today. Go to Fay's closet and check the left corner, you'll find a blue/ivory dress that ends at the knees. It's sleeveless with stones on the belt."

Aya followed her instructions and checked it out. She searched the closet until she found it. Pulling it out, she sucked in a breath at how beautiful the material was.

"You'll find matching shoes in your closet on the top shelf." Arisa giggled, hanging up.

Aya looked amazed when she pulled the shoes from her room. _How do they know these things?! She_ thought, quickly getting dressed. _I don't even know where he's taking me, _were her last thoughts.

* * *

><p>(Fay's office)

"Any plans today?"

Fay looked up at Atobe in surprise. "Plans?" _Why do people keep asking me that today?_

Atobe poked her forehead. "Valentine's Day."

"Ohâ€| really? I totally forgot," she said absentmindedly.

Atobe looked at her stunned. _I bet she is the only woman that doesn't fuss over Valentine's,_ he thought amused. "You may leave early if you have plans," he said before leaving her office.

* * *

><p>(Aya's & Fay's apartment)

Aya was looking at the reflection of herself displayed on Fay's full-body mirror. _Why am I wearing this again?_ She thought trying to feel happy with the way she looked. She sighed, I look half as good as Fay in this dress; she sat on the edge of Fay's bed with all sorts of depressing thoughts taking control of her mind.

She was startled out of her self-hatred thinking when the doorbell rang in the dead silence that surrounded the apartment. She sat up

and made her way to the door; she wore a fake smile and opened the door knowing that it was her boyfriend who was standing outside.

"Hi!" she said with a sweet voice.

Sanada looked at her and a smile painted his lips when his eyes fell onto the attire she was wearing. "Hi Aya," he said, "The dress looks good on you," he praise still smiling warmly at her.

Aya felt her cheeks burn and realized she was blushing. It was rare for Sanada to praise her like that. "Thank you," she said with a true smile. "Shall we go?" she asked before walking outside the door.

He kept his gaze on her as she stood next to him. "Aya, I don't mean to be rude or anything but we're going to my home." He rubbed his jaw. "Wouldn't you feel more comfortable in casual clothing?" he asked her.

Aya froze. _His home? He never takes me to his home_, she thought while her cheeks were on fire once again. "I'm sorry" I didn't know," she said embarrassed.

Sanada laughed. "It's okay. I'll wait until you change." They both walked in the apartment and Aya went straight into her room to change while Sanada made his way to the living room and sat on the couch. He was well familiar with their apartment since he always spent his time there.

He was so into his thoughts that he never realized that there was a person standing in front of him until she called his name.

"You spaced out completely," Fay said with a chuckle.

Sanada looked up with a jolt from where he was sitting and saw Fay in front of him. His heart started beating for no reason as she looked down at him. He noticed that her hair was done and let down with curls while she had light make up on. Abruptly, he stood up and looked at her. "Hey!"

"Hey," she said softly, standing in front of him. She looked behind him as she heard rustling sounds from Aya's room. Fay chuckled and turned her gaze back at him. "What are your plans?"

Sanada looked at her and felt his chest tighten. The last time he had seen her was when he kissed her. Until this day, he didn't know what possessed him, but he knew it would always be imprinted in his mind. Without thinking, he moved his hand and caught a few strands of her hair. He inhaled the loose strands and smiled. _It's better like this_ We need to concentrate on our own. _

Fay froze in her place and waited patiently for him to let go of her hair.

He finally let go lightly and put his hands in his pockets. He took a few steps back, away from her and the couch and stood a bit apart. "I'm taking her to my place, I'm going to cook."

Fay felt her heart beat faster. _Don't let it bother you_ Don't let

it bother you?" "That's nice," she said with a smile, taking off her coat. She placed her hand bag on the coffee table and took off her shoes. "I was ordered to fix myself and I have no idea what he wants to do."

"Ordered?"

"I don't even care what the 14th is," she mumbled, walking to the kitchen. She took a carton of orange juice from the fridge and pulled out two glasses. She poured one for herself and one for Sanada. She picked them up in each hand and walked over to him. "Here you go."

"Thanks," he said, taking it.

They both drank their juice in silent without saying anything. The stillness that surrounded them was comforting so neither complained. Fay looked at her empty glass when she finished and wanted to break the quiet, but was relieved when Aya showed up.

"Ooh, Fay," she said, hugging her tight.

Fay laughed. "Hey, babe?" she said.

Sanada smiled witnessing Fay's laughter and Aya's cheerfulness. "I guess these two will never change."

Sanada and Aya left the apartment shortly after the later was ready. Fay walked to her room and took oh her clothes. She needed to have a shower but she had to be careful not to ruin her hair and makeup. "Thank goodness I am used to this;" she thought wryly and entered the shower.

It didn't take her much to finish with her shower, so she wondered in her room thinking about what to wear. "He told her to get her hair and makeup done so I need to pick a good dress to wear," she thought as she skimmed through her clothes.

* * *

><p>(Oshitari's house)

Oshitari was lying in bed waiting for Arisa to finish from her bath. He had reserved them a table at the hotel for that night and a suite. It was a long time since they had time for themselves. He had planned everything out. The dinner, the suite, the music and the gift; He chuckled to himself and turned his head when he heard the 'click' from the door.

"You can go in now Yuushi," Arisa said walking in the room covered in a towel and drying her hair carelessly.

Oshitari lifted himself of the bed and ruffled his hair. "I hope everything goes as planned tonight," he thought as he got up from the bed and walked to the bathroom.

Arisa looked at him puzzled. He has been spacing out lately; "I wonder what's on his mind?" She thought and opened her closet to find the dress she had bought for Valentine's. She smiled as she pulled the dress out; she wanted this night to be special.

She sighed and wore her dress slowly; it was light purple with bark red embroidery on the bust. It was a beautiful piece that she had picked out with Fay, since she was the one with the best dressing sense out the three. _Aya has the worst,_ she chuckled thinking of her tomboyish friend.

Oshitari had finished his shower and was currently drying his hair looking at his reflection on the mirror. He was feeling nervous for no reason; he knew that this night would be perfect but that didn't do anything to ease his restless mind. _It will be fine, _he thought with a sigh.

* * *

><p>(Sanada's & Niou's apartment)

"I didn't know you cooked, Genichirou," Aya said cheerfully as she sat on the counter next to Sanada who was cooking for their dinner.

Sanada looked at her with a small cryptic smile. "It's something I like to do," he said softly. "My mom taught me how to cook before I left my hometown to come live here alone." He finished steering the food and lifted his hand to caress Aya's cheek.

Aya blushed not expecting such a move from him. It was nothing much but a caress; but for her it was great because he rarely showed any kind of affection. His skin brushing her cheek had a beautiful feel for her. She smiled brightly at him. "I'm so looking forward to taste it," she beamed and jumped from the counter.

"I'm happy you're so excited." He opened a bottle of wine and left the bottle on the table. He didn't leave Aya do anything since he had decided that he would make this Valentine's a nice memory for both.

Aya looked at the table and giggled. She never expected that he could have such a romantic side. "I like the flowers." She pointed at the vase. "It's amazing you found Sunflowers this season," she said with a grin, "It's my favorite flower you know." she touch the yellow petals softly.

Sanada was looking at her amused. "I wasn't planning of getting these flowers but when I saw them they remind me of you," he said and placed the food on the table. He motioned for her to sit and then sat in his seat opposite her. "I have rented 8 DVD's," he smiled embarrassed. "I didn't know what you would like to see."

Aya laughed shaking her head. "Anything is fine with me," she smiled and looked at the food he had prepared. "It looks delicious."

"I hope you like the taste," he said sincerely, moving his arm around her. Without thinking, he bent down and kissed her lightly.

Aya blushed even more and returned his kiss.

Sanada was shocked at his own impulsive mood. _I guess it's the mood, _he thought, continuing to kiss her.

* * *

><p>(Aya's & Fay's apartment)

Fay was still deciding what to wear when the doorbell rang. _Damnitâ€| the one time I want him to be late, he's on time, _she thought annoyed. She walked towards the door and opened the door.

Fay actually blinked at the sight in front of her. It was Niouâ€| fully dressed in a suit. He was holding a single red rose and a big box in his other hand. "Good evening, ma'am," he said, with a bow.

Fay raised her eyebrow suspiciously. "What did you do?" she asked, crossing her arms. _He's usually only nice if he is up to no good._

He looked up at her and handed her the rose. "I promised myself that I will not argue with you today, so be a dear, and take this," he said, kissing her lips gently.

Fay took the rose, looking at it skeptically. She looked up at him and saw his sincere look. She frowned, but then sighed. "Hi," she said softly, walking closer to him and kissing his cheek lightly. "I'm just not used to this treatment."

"It's alright," he said, inhaling her scent nuzzling her neck tenderly. "I love your hair and makeup."

Fay smiled and stepped back. "I'm going to get dressed," she said, turning around.

He took her wrist and pulled her back. "Oh, but what will you wear?" he asked with a grin.

She blinked and bit her lip. "I was just looking through my closet toâ€|" but she stopped talking when he placed a box in front of her face.

"Wear this."

"You have got to be kidding me," Fay exclaimed, looking at the box and then dropping it out of shock.

He picked up the box and opened it to reveal a stunning black tube dress and it had a halter made of beautiful accessories that resembled diamonds, it was knee length and he even had matching shoes. "So, do I have good taste?"

Fay looked at Niou wide eyed. She could never believe that he went to all those lengths just for one night. A smile crept up on her lips; it was a genuine smile. "It's beautiful," she said softly, "Let me wear it and go wherever you want." She took the dress and walked to her room to change.

* * *

><p>Oshitari and Arisa arrived to the hotel that he had reserved for Valentine's. As she got out of the car she looked at the hotel and

gasped. I think this is too much, she though still gazing at the huge building. "Yuushi... I hope you didn't spend a lot for this," she said absentmindedly.<p>

Oshitari chuckled and circled his arm over Arisa's shoulder. "So what if I spent a little bit more this time?" he kissed her cheek. "It's not like I can spend money on you every day." He pushed his glasses and began to walk holding Arisa close to him.

"I love you Yuushi," she said happy that she was fortunate enough to find a man like him.

They walked to the luxurious restaurant and to the table that was reserved for them. Dinner was quiet, filled with small talk and lots of dancing. Arisa was feeling very happy with everything that Oshitari had planned for them. _We never had a moment like this,_ she thought as she danced another slow song with the man she had fallen in love with ten years ago.

Although they were still young at the age of sixteen, he was already the father of beautiful little girl. When she met him, he was a distant person not wanting to get involved with any woman after his last experience. It took her a whole year of persuasion to get him to ask her out. She fell in love with the baby at first sight and never once did she treat the child as not hers; _but it's been too long,_ she thought placing her head on his shoulder and closing her eyes.

How will I ever get the courage to make the first move; how do I tell him; her mind was in turmoil, she wanted to tell him that they should make their relationship more firm like an engagement or something close but she couldn't find the right words. She sighed and hugged him tighter.

Oshitari felt Arisa's hold on him tighten. "Are you alright?" he whispered in her ear softly.

Arisa shivered. "Yeah. I am just thinking of stuff," she said squeezing a smile.

"I've never seen your most hideous smile," he said disappointed. "I thought you were having fun."

"No!" Arisa pulled away and looked deep into his eyes to see if he was teasing her, but what she saw in his eyes wasn't tease. "I'm sorry Yuushi. I love tonight and I wish that we could have more of these nights together but..." she couldn't continue. She just stood there in the middle of the ballroom, tears threatened to spill from her eyes and spoil their evening; but what happened next took her by surprise.

Oshitari had knelled on one knee with his usual smirk adorning his beautiful features. "I know it took ten years to make this step but I wasn't sure if you were ready to take this step with me. I love you more than anything in this world Arisa, because you are that world for me." He kissed the hand he was holding. "I want to live my life with you since its impossible for me to see a future without you in it; so, will you marry me Arisa?" he asked looking deep into her eyes waiting for the answer he was hoping to hear.

Arisa lifted her free hand to cover her mouth when he said those words to her. The tears started falling down her cheeks burning her skin; but she was smiling. She was smiling brightly like the first time, when he asked her out. She pulled her hand away from his and looked at him with her eyes full of tears.

Oshitari's body tensed when he saw the woman he loved crying. _She doesn't feel the same way,_ he thought disappointed when she pulled her hand away from his hold; but what happened a few moments later shocked him.

Arisa leaned down and hugged Oshitari tightly. She had snaked her arms around his neck and was holding on to him crying like a small baby. "Yes, yes, yes... I can't believe that I was thinking of proposing to you just a few minutes ago," she said laughing while the tears were still running down her flushed cheeks. "I love you Yuushi and I want to spend my life with you too. All four of us can be a family now."

"Four?" he asked surprised at her outburst. He was almost convinced that she didn't want to marry him.

Arisa pulled away and straightened herself pulling him along with her. "Ummm... there is something I wanted to tell you," she looked down as her face turned into a thousand shades of red. "You just proposed to two women!" she beamed brightly, the blush still on her face.

Oshitari froze. He was looking at Arisa wide eyed, shocked to say the least. Arisa giggled at his reaction and then started to laugh when he still didn't move. "I think its okay for you to breathe now Yuushi," she smiled, "or is it that you are not happy?"

Oshitari snapped out of his shock and looked at Arisa's pouting face. He hugged her and lifted her in his arms spinning them around. After a couple of spins he put her back on the ground. "Happy? I am the happiest man on Earth," he said and pulled her into a passionate kiss.

* * *

><p>(Sanada's & Niou's apartment)

Aya was on the couch with a content smile on her face. Dinner went incredibly well and now here she was sitting close to Sanada watching a sappy romantic movie. It had took her by surprise when he had suggested to watch that certain movie but she shrugged it off when his arm circled around her shoulder.

Sanada was sitting with Aya in his arms watching a movie that had caught his interest when he was in the video club. He didn't know what it was that possessed him to get it but he did and he also chose that one out of the whole lot to watch. No he regretted it;_ Why?_ He asked himself inwardly;_ I decided to have a nice time with Aya and I chose this movie?_

He sighed and pulled Aya closer to him. "Do you like this movie?" he asked looking at the TV screen.

"You want the truth?" Aya lifted her head and smiled sweetly at him.

"I really don't like sappy romantic movies. 'My Best Friend's Wedding' is one I would never watch; but since you chose it, I won't complain," she said and kissed his cheek.

Sanada moved forward letting go of Aya and picked the control from the table. He switched off the movie and leaned back in the couch. "Sorry, I don't know why I wanted to see that movie," he sighed and rested his head on the back of the couch.

Aya giggled and shook her head. "It's okay Genichirou. Besides I am a very picky person when I see a movie. I have the same taste as Haru," she laughed.

"I see," Sanada said and looked at her. "You look beautiful when you smile," he said absentmindedly.

Aya stopped her laughter and looked at him. That wasn't something that she was expecting to hear from him. "Wha... What did you say?" she asked hesitantly.

Sanada chuckled and lifted his hand to cup her chin. He pulled her face closer to his as he leaned his head and placed a sweet kiss on her lips. Aya's eyes widened at his impulsive action, but made no move to pull away. She closed her eyes and moved her hands around his neck pulling him closer to deepen the kiss.

* * *

><p>"Where are you taking me Masaharu?" Fay asked looking at the scenery outside of the window car. She had gotten dressed quickly in the dress he had bought her and now they were driving to some unknown place. How did he know my size, she thought as she gazed at the moving lights.

"It's a surprise," he said with a smile.

Fay looked at him and noticed his smile. _He is smiling,_ she thought bewildered, _he is truly smiling. _"It's the first time I see you smile," she said still looking at him.

Niou looked at her and then averted his eyes back to the road. "I always smile," he said quietly.

"No. You smirk. There is a big difference Masaharu."

"I haven't noticed." He stopped the car and looked at Fay. "We are here," he said with his usual smirk.

Fay rolled her eyes and opened the door of the car. "You're smirking again." She stepped outside and blinked. _Is he playing games with me?_ She thought feeling irritation building up. "Why did you bring me in the middle of nowhere dressed like this?" she hissed turning around but froze when she saw the building that was behind her.

"You were saying?"

She was looking at a huge mansion. Of course it's a mansion butâ€| she thought as she walked up to Niou her eyes still glued on the building. "Isâ€| is this yours?" she asked hesitantly.

Niou chuckled. "For tonight," he said and moved his arm around her shoulders pulling her closer to him. "Shall we, my princess?"

Fay looked at him quizzically. _For tonight?_ She thought following him. _What does he mean for tonight?_ She decided to voice her thoughts and asked him directly. "What do you mean for tonight?"

"You're not going to rest if I don't tell you," he sighed. "It's Hiroshi's home. He is with his fiancée on a trip to Sapporo and he gave me permission to do whatever I want." He knocked on the door. "Happy now?" he asked moving his arm away from Fay.

Fay smiled and hugged his arm. "You have good friends Masaharu," she said sweetly. "I didn't mean to offend you but you do have a way of taking me by surprise with your ideas." She laughed.

Niou laughed at that. "I guess you're right."

The door opened a few seconds later to reveal a butler welcoming them inside the huge mansion. "Welcome, Niou-sama, Mishiam-sama." The butler bowed politely. "This way, please follow me," he said and walked in front of the two directing them through the house and to another room that was obviously the dining room.

"This is like a dream house," Fay muttered still hugging Niou's arm tightly. "Yagyuu-san must be very rich." She looked at the flower filled room. "Did you buy all these flowers?" she asked still gazing around the room.

"Yes. I do want to make this night special," he said softly with a hint of seriousness in his voice that made Fay avert her gaze and look at him. "I don't care whether it's Valentine's or not. I just want it to be a perfect date." He smiled and walked towards the candle lit table and helped Fay sit before he sat on the opposite side of the table.

Fay smiled brightly. He never expected him to be so sincere and for the first time in her relationship with him she felt happy. "Thank you Masaharu. It's already perfect," she said sweetly. _It's about time I start trusting him completely._

* * *

><p>(Atobe's office)

As most couples enjoyed their 'special' day, Atobe Keigo sat quietly in his office, sipping his wine carefully. There was a half-empty bottle on his desk and he was looking at his computer screen. He twirled the glass in his hand and then leaned forward and continued typing.

I hate this day, he thought as he saw all the 'junk' mail in his inbox about Valentine's. _I still don't get why women make a big deal out of it. Plus, they make a big deal about it and then get angry if you suggest something 'nice.'_

_The one woman I actually think may be just 'right' and she's too proud to admit that it was romantic. _He rubbed his aching temple and looked at the flower bill that he had sent earlier. He took it and

crumpled it, throwing it in the bin. _And the one woman Atobe Keigo loves and she doesn't love me back, _he thought with a sigh.

_Maybe I should just accept whoever that woman brings home next time, _he continued thinking as he leaned against his chair further. He lifted his feet and rested them on the desk. The more he thought about things, the angrier he was getting.

He was trying to control his emotions, but they were all over the place. He just couldn't understand why the woman he loved refused to be with him. _What more can I do? Maybe it's time I get a woman's advice, _his thoughts pondered. _Even if I tried dating others or even show interest in different women, I can't help but back out the minute I feel like it won't happen._

Atobe Keigo sighed, _just what the hell you got yourself into this timeâ€¦|_

* * *

><p>(Sanada's apartment)

Sanada was holding Aya in his lap as he was kissing her, playing with her lips as they moved sensually against each other. They had decided to watch another movie less romantic but it was forgotten at the moment. Aya had circled her hands around his neck and opened her mouth to invite his tongue inside her.

He complied immediately as he pushed his tongue inside her mouth and moved around to feel her sweet taste. He caressed her tongue softly and played with it as he snaked his arms around Aya's waist and pushing her body to lie on the couch. He hovered over her body pressing his softly on her. He removed his hands from her waist and moved slowly over her beautiful curves pulling her hands away from his neck and pinning them above her head.

Aya was losing her mind with Sanada's soft aggressiveness. It was the first time he was so passionate about making out. She never expected him to take the first step and kiss her like that. She could feel his tongue leave her mouth and bit down a disappointed cry, but he didn't pull away and apologize like he always did.

Sanada moved his lips ghostly over Aya's cheek placing a small kiss under her ear; he then licked his way down her neck making Aya squeal in delight. He pulled away and looked down at her; she had her eyes closed and a sweet, addicting smile was painted on her lips. He smiled as he noticed that he had just found a very sensitive spot so he leaned his head and kissed the spot between her shoulder and neck.

"Genâ€¦| Genichirou," Aya said breathless from his ministrations. Her hands were still held above her head, she tried to pull them out of his grasp but he only tightened his hold on them. She lifted her head as she felt his lips move down to her collarbone. His hair was softly caressing the skin of her neck and cheek. "Iâ€¦| I loveâ€¦|" she whispered inaudibly as his other hand moved under her shirt.

* * *

><p>(Hotel suite)

"Yuushi, this is..." Arisa covered her mouth looking around the spacious luxurious room. "I have no words..."

Oshitari hugged her from behind and kissed her bare shoulder tenderly. "It's for our special night," he said huskily. "I plan to make love to you all night."

Arisa giggled and pulled away from his embrace to look around the room. She turned around in circles smiling brightly; she walked to the bed where she found a small box inside a bouquet of flowers that were in the middle of the bed. She took the bouquet in her hands and pulled the box.

Oshitari sat on the couch of the suite and untied his tie. His gaze was on Arisa as she was acting like a small child that had just got a new present; and then he saw her walk to the bed and picking up the bouquet. He smiled still looking at her as he leaned back on the couch and stretched his legs.

She looked at the small red box knowing in was a ring. She opened the box slowly not wanting to drop it since she was still holding the flowers. The moment she opened the box the flowers fell on the floor and she sat on the bed with a lost, goofy happy look on her face. _It's beautiful, she thought looking at the diamond ring. _No beautiful is degrading; it's... there are no words to describe it._

Oshitari chuckled when he saw the expression on her face. He got up from the couch and walked to Arisa sitting beside her. "Do you like it?" he whispered in her ear. "Why don't you wear it? It will look good on you." He kissed her cheek tenderly.

"Yuushi, I love you so much," Arisa said still looking at the ring.

Oshitari took the box from her hand and pulled the ring out of it. He lifted Arisa's hand and placed it on her finger. He then turned her hand around and traced the palm with his finger before he leaned his head and kissed the burning flesh of her palm.

* * *

><p>(Yagyuu's mansion)

Niou and Fay were sitting at the table laughing and talking about various things when a soft music filled the room. Fay turned her attention to the music and then looked at Niou. "I can't believe you organized all this?" she said placing the small spoon on her plate. "Would you da..." she was cut off.

Niou got up from his chair and walked to Fay's end. "I believe I should be the one to ask for a dance, right princess?" He bowed and extended his arm as a gesture for her to take his hand.

Fay laughed and took his hand. "Of course I'd dance with you, my prince," she whispered the last two words before she leaned her head to rest on his shoulder. She hugged him tight not wanting to let go of the beautiful feeling she was experiencing.

"I'm happy you like it so far," he said softly, "I just hope you'll like the rest of the night as well."

Fay lifted her head and looked deep into his eyes with a smile painted over her face. "Masaharu, you're spoiling me." She kissed his cheek, "I'm curious to see what you have planned."

Niou smiled. "Ummâ€¦ Let's seeâ€¦" he lifted his head with a thoughtful expression. "We will bathe in a bathtub filled of rose petals and [lotus] flowers. Will make love on a bed full of [red tulips] and tomorrow morning I will make breakfast for you." He grinned. "How does that sound?"

"You are joking?" Fay asked with her eyes wide.

"Noâ€¦ Not really!"

Fay gasped. _Iâ€¦_ her mind had stopped functioning and she only looked at Niou stunned while he danced her to the rhythm she couldn't hear anymore. "Youâ€¦ you'reâ€¦ serious?" she asked between breaths as she tried to regulate the beating of her heart.

Niou just smiled and pulled her closer to him.

"You ARE serious," she said breathless. _I don't know how to react,_ she thought leaning her head on his shoulder. She was confused; a part of her was scared of the rest of the night that was to come, since she had to demolish all walls she had build around her heart and actually trust him completely; and there was another part of her that was looking forward to the upcoming events. She was battling inside her between sanity and wildness. S_houldn't I trust him? _She thought as they danced silently holding each other. _If he wanted to hurt me he would have done that a long time ago; Ohâ€¦ what am I thinking of? I want this; I need this so we can become a real couple._

"Fay, stop agonizing over everything. We'll go at what you feel comfortable in," Niou said softly. "Even if you just want to sleep, it's still okay, as long as you enjoy tonight." He leaned his head and kissed her lips gently as he held her in his arms.

Is he doing all this just for me?

13. Chapter 13

"Mishima-san, you're going to be late for the staff meeting."

Fay looked up from her computer screen at her secretary who was standing by the door. "Is it time already?" she asked with a sigh.

The secretary nodded and walked out of the office quietly. Fay got up from her chair, taking a few papers with her and left her office. _I have a million things to finish and he is calling for another meeting_. She walked towards the meeting room tiredly; she had taken the day before off, so her work pile had doubled.

Great, I'm the last to enter, she thought as she knocked on the door. "I'm sorry I'mâ€¦" she looked around and saw only Atobe and a

couple of people. "Is the meeting over?" she asked as she walked in the room.

"We are waiting for the others to come," A woman said nonchalantly.

"I see," Fay muttered sitting on a chair. She looked at Atobe who apparently was on the phone arguing with someone. _There goes my time_, she thought as she flipped through the papers she had carried with her. _Someone is going to be pissed if I work late tonight_, she sighed inwardly.

"Sorry we're late," Oshitari said as he entered the room with a bunch of people following him.

Atobe just nodded and waited for everyone to be seated before they began the meeting. Oshitari sat next to Fay. "Hey partner!" he said with a smile.

"Heyâ€|" she answered grumpily.

"I see you're in a good mood today!" he chuckled. "Were where you yesterday?" he asked but before Fay could answer, Atobe started talking to everyone present.

Two hours had already passed and the meeting was still going. _This is the most boring meeting I ever been too_, Fay thought as she drew circles and lines on a piece of paper. _I have so much work to do and here I amâ€| stuck in this room with 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6â€| 10 idiots_, she complained inwardly glaring at the person who was talking for the past hour.

"Someone is bored," Oshitari whispered sliding his chair closer to Fay's slowly.

Fay sighed and leaned towards Oshitari. "Aren't you boredâ€| yet?" she asked in return whispering slowly, sarcasm evident in her tone of voice.

Oshitari pushed his glasses up and chuckled ever so lightly. "Definitely." He looked over at Atobe. "Want to hear something interesting?" he whispered keeping his gaze on Atobe.

"Sure," Fay answered; _anything would be more interesting than this meeting_.

"I'm getting married!" he whispered with a chuckle.

Fay leaned a bit more on her chair. "You whaaaaaaaaâ€|"

[THUD]

Atobe jerked his head towards Fay and Oshitari. The scene that he saw unfolding in front of his eyes was hilarious but he was so lost in his thoughts that he didn't find it funny at all. "Is this meeting so boring for you two?" he asked annoyed. "If you want to sleep Mishima, then go home."

Fay got up with difficulty. She glared at Atobe when she heard his

comment. "I wasn't sleeping," she retorted angrily.

Oshitari was trying hard to stifle his laughter. He fixed his glasses and helped Fay pick the chair up. "Thank God you're wearing pants today," he whispered.

"Shut up you jerk!" she hissed as low as possible not to be heard. She sat on her chair and fixed her hair. "Continue." She gestured to the person to resume talking. She rolled her chair next to Oshitari's. "I hate you."

"I owed you!" he chuckled slowly and moved away from Fay when he saw Atobe's death glare directed at him.

* * *

><p>"Seriously, two of my high senior peopleâ€| Head of Finance and Head of Marketing acting all bored and mighty in a serious staff meeting. I seriously don't know what to sayâ€|." Atobe glared at both Oshitari and Fay.<p>

_Serious my ass, _Fay thought sarcastically rolling her eyes.

"Oy! Don't roll your eyes." He snapped furiously.

Fay crossed her eyes. "I am not being disrespectful, but even you had to admit that Jin-san kept rambling on about crap for the past half an hour and this idiot," she said, pointing at Oshitari, "Chose to tell me during the meeting thatâ€|"

"I'm getting married," Oshitari interrupted.

Atobe stopped while Fay smirked.

Oshitari grinned.

Atobe let out a sigh. "You're an idiot, do you know that?" he asked, extending his hand towards Oshitari so he could congratulate him. "It's about time though."

_I recall Arisa mumbling something like that too, _Oshitari thought sarcastically.

"So shall we celebrate?" Fay asked, "A day off maybe?" she smirked.

"Yuushi can leave but over my dead body you're taking today off â€" you were off yesterday," Atobe said firmly.

Fay let out a sigh. She hugged Oshitari's arm and kissed his cheek, "At least take me for lunch, ne?"

Oshitari laughed. "That I can do." He led her outside, as it was lunchtime.

_I swear sometimesâ€|. Argh! They're like children, _Atobe thought, deciding to follow them.

* * *

><p>At the girls' apartment<p>

"I am not wearing green!" Fay said horrified, looking at the catalogue.

Aya pushed her tongue out, "I was kidding," she said snatching the magazine from Fay. They were both going through catalogues for Arisa's wedding, although they knew it was too soon.

"Oyâ€| I was looking at that," Fay complained, snatching it back.

They both squealed, fighting over the catalogue when someone snatched it from them. "Womenâ€| Can I sleep!?" Niou muttered, throwing the catalogue away and going back to the sofa. He plopped himself on it and went back to sleep.

"I'm going to kill him," Fay mumbled, stretching her legs on the floor.

Aya laughed and then lay on her tummy. "Are we going to throw them the surprise engagement party?" she asked, lifting her legs in the air.

Fay nodded and looked at her. "Yuushi doesn't want to get engaged first rather he wants to get married right away, soâ€|" she smiled mischievously, "It only makes me want to do it even more."

Aya giggled and sat up. She pulled a notepad from the coffee table and flipped it open. "Shall we start planning then?" she asked, trying to find a pen. She found one and clicked it open. "Invitation?"

"Yesâ€| Noâ€|" Fay answered with her eyes closed, "We don't know any of Yuushi's friends."

Aya looked at her thoughtful. "Ummâ€| You can always ask the demon."

Fay opened her eyes, "Demon?" she whispered.

"Your boss." Aya giggled, placing a finger on her lips.

Fay frowned. "Not so loud, Aya. The last thing I need is for Masaharu to hear that, he's already not happy with my work," she admitted, moving to lie down on her side. "He doesn't like Atobe either, so don't add to his dislike."

"Oh, I didn't know. I'm sorry."

Fay sighed, "Oh wellâ€|" she muttered, watching her. _In fact my late nights are starting to irritate him even more now._

Aya plopped back on her tummy with the notepad. "You take care of the invitations; I'll take care of food and beverages." She scribbled a few lines on the notepad. "Ummâ€| You need to call Sae and the guys from Arisa's side."

Fay rested her head on the palm of her hand. "You know I don't talk to Saeki. The others I don't mind but not him," she said

indifferently.

"Eh? Fine. I will tell the guys myself." Aya grumbled scribbling again.

"Don't be like that. You know that we never ever stand each other. I can't see why we should invite him," Fay said coolly. "He didn't even invite you to his wedding and he used to call you his best friend." she laughed sarcastically.

Aya looked at Fay with a small frown on her face. "Actuallyâ€¦ He did invite me," she said softly. "He only invited family and a few close friends, but I couldn't go. If I remember correct it was the week you were sick."

Fay's eyes widened a bit hearing Aya's explanation. "Iâ€¦ I'm sorryâ€¦ I didn't knowâ€¦" she sat up. "You know. Invite him. I know you want to see him." She gave Aya a big smile.

"I love you," Aya said and wrote something on the notepad.

Fay laughed as she lay down on her back placing her hands under her head as pillow. "Yeahâ€¦ Yeahâ€¦ Cheekyâ€¦" she said amused. "Let's get back to work now. Location?"

Aya thought for a minute, "We can always have it here, you know."

Fay nodded thoughtfully. "I don't mind." _Actually, having it here will lessen the burden on us. We just have to make sure that it's decorated properly though. _"I'll handle decorations, I know some guys who are good." She closed her eyes again with a yawn.

Aya nodded, writing everything down. Finally, she sat up and stretched her arms above her head. "I'm going to cook dinner," she said, standing up. "Is Haru staying for dinner?"

Fay didn't reply.

Aya waited for her to reply, but frowned when she didn't. "Fay?" she said, but then smiled when she noticed her friend fast asleep on the floor. She walked to the closet and pulled out two blankets. She placed one on Niou who was soundly asleep and the other on Fay. _I feel like I'm their mother sometimes, _she thought sarcastically, going to the kitchen to prepare dinner.

It was a good hour when Fay woke up. She stirred jadedly and found herself on the sofa with someone blocking her view. She sat up and found Niou still asleep. She looked around wondering how she got here.

"Genichirou placed you there."

"Oh," Fay said as Aya walked in, telling her that. _No wonder at one moment I felt contentedâ€¦_

"Dinner's ready, I was waiting for you two to wake up," Aya announced, "Do you mind waking Haru up?"

Fay nodded and put her hand on Niou's shoulder. "Masaharu," she

whispered, shaking him. There was no reaction from him, so she leaned forward and moved his hair off his face. "Hey!" she said softly.

He opened his eyes and stirred. "I'm awake," he muttered, moving his body onto his back.

Fay leaned on her elbow and looked at him. "Hello," she said dotingly, moving a strand of hair off his eye. "This man drives me crazy; one minute we're making out and then the next we're at each other's throats. I wonder how healthy our relationship is."

Niou took her hand in his and kissed it gently. After that, he held her hand to his chest and just smiled at her. "I'm tired."

Fay bent down and kissed his lips lightly.

"Hey! Hey! No making out!" Aya scolded walking back to the living room. "I've been slaving in the kitchen and dinner will be cold so get up already." She glared at them until they both muttered something inappropriate under their breaths and stood up.

Finally, all four of them were at the dinner table. Aya had set everything up magnificently and began serving. She had made rice, chicken, and potato salad. "You all have to eat up," she ordered, serving rice.

Niou crinkled his nose. "How long were we asleep? When did you prepare all this?"

Aya beamed proudly, "Well, Genichirou helped."

Sanada didn't say anything.

Fay nudged Niou with her elbow and smirked. "Learn." She giggled, making him look discontent.

Niou smirked, ignoring her comment. "I have other uses," he said, chewing his salad.

Aya chuckled, covering her mouth. She looked at Sanada and found him just eating inaudibly while Fay was ignoring Niou's comment. She was thankful that the four of them could finally be 'normal' like this. She had always prayed for this setting and she was happy that she finally got it. "Thank you!"

After dinner, all had moved to the living room, Aya placed the tray she was holding on the table and began serving tea for everyone. She was trying hard not to chuckle at Sanada and Niou who were discussing a case heatedly while Fay just sat there bored, trying not to fall asleep again. "You guys are so passionate about your discussion, what's going?"

"This!" Niou said, placing a newspaper on the table, "It's about a girl that stabbed her boyfriend and best friend for cheating on her."

Aya raised an eyebrow. "So?" she asked, sitting on the couch and leaning against the back.

Niou looked at her. "So, the judge gave her a sentence of one year only, but Sanada disagrees."

"She intentionally hurt two human beings, she deserves to be locked up," Sanada said automatically, nibbling on a biscuit.

Fay opened her eyes and stretched her arms. "I agree with that."

"You're supposed to take my side!" Niou snapped.

Fay rolled her eyes, standing up. "What freaking side? I just gave my opinion on something stupid," she muttered, picking up a book from the floor.

"People's lives are not stupid," Niou said, looking at her.

_Uh-oh, _Aya thought, standing up immediately. "Maybe what she meant wasâ€|"

"That's not what I meant," Fay muttered, crossing her arms. "Just because they slept with each other that doesn't mean its okay for her to kill and get away with it."

"Ummâ€| Guysâ€|" Aya began, not wanting them to fight.

"I still disagree," Niou muttered. "She was cheated on, of course she would kill. And she doesn't deserve to be locked up â€" she was betrayed," he said heatedly.

Fay argued.

Niou argued.

While Aya sighed;

Sanada ignored.

* * *

><p>Four days later

Aya was in her room, trying to fix her hair. _I hate curly hair_, she thought as she was tying her hair in a ban leaving strands fall on the sides. She was wearing a new set of clothes that she had bought a couple of days ago, which consisted of dark blue jeans and a long sleeve purple shirt. She was performing again tonight and she wanted to look nice; there were rumors that scouts where going to be there tonight so this was a very special night for her.

Picking up her makeup bag, she went to Fay's room and plopped herself onto the bed where Fay was sleeping. "Please, put my makeup on." _I'm hopelessâ€| I never use makeup anyway._

Fay groaned and buried herself under the covers. "Go away," she muttered.

Aya poked her through the covers, making Fay swear. "Come on! Come on! Gen-chan will be here soon and I need to get dressed."

"Since when do you care how you [yawn] look like?" Fay mumbled sleeplessly.

Aya smacked her, "Fay! I'm serious?!" she exclaimed.

Fay huffed and sat up. She rubbed her eyes and grabbed the makeup bag from of Aya. Without even saying another word, she took the tools out and began applying makeup on Aya's face.

"Fay"

"No talking," she ordered, taking out the lipstick and applying it for her. It was a light color so she decided to apply it on her. When she finished with that, she pulled out the lip-gloss and dabbed on top of it.

Aya obeyed.

When Fay finally finished, she plopped on the bed and closed her eyes. "Make sure to wear blue," she muttered, pulling the blanket on top of her.

"Blue? My jeans are blue my shirt is purple."

Fay turned and looked at Aya's attire. _Nice match._ "Its okay, but can't you wear something else other than jeans." she sighed and turned her back on her friend, covering herself.

Aya frowned, "Aren't you coming?" she asked, looking at her reflection through the compact mirror.

"Not now," Fay said. "I'm meeting someone for lunch and you're not on until later tonight, why are you even going now?"

Aya got off the bed. "I'm meeting Saeki before going to VOX, remember him?"

"Nope," she garbled, totally forgetting that they were talking about him a couple of days back.

"Whatever," Aya sighed, _this woman is difficult to talk to when asleep, _she complained, walking out of the room. _I need to finish getting ready now, _she thought, heading to her own room.

* * *

><p>At a cafÃ©<p>

"He is late." Aya crossed her hands annoyed.

"If he is coming from Chiba he might be a bit late with all the traffic."

Aya pouted. "Genichirou don't defend him. He is 25 minutes late," she said disappointed and picked her cup of hot chocolate to drink.

Sanada sighed. "Is she a good friend of yours?" he asked to keep Aya's attention on something else then her friend's tardiness.

"She?" she laughed.

"Hey Aya-chan," A man said out of the blue.

Aya and Sanada both looked at the man that took the liberty and sat at their table. "You're late!" Aya hissed.

"I'm sorry." The man bowed his head with a beautiful smile gracing his lips. "I didn't think I would get stuck in the traffic for so long."

"Genichirou this is my best friend Saeki Kojirou," she introduced with a smile, "And as you can see he is not a she!" she laughed.

Saeki looked at her perplexed but didn't give it too much thought. He turned his attention to the man accompanying his friend. "It's nice to see you after all these years Sanada-san."

"Nice to see you too Saeki-san." Sanada bowed his head lightly in acknowledgment.

Aya looked at both men suspiciously. "You two know each other?" she asked.

Sanada looked at her and smiled.

"Don't tell me. Tennis?" she sighed but smiled full heartedly at the two men.

An hour had passed and all three were engaged in a conversation from their past to their present. After a while Sanada excused himself and left Saeki and Aya alone as he made his way to the rest room.

"I seriously can't believe you are dating Sanada of all people," Saeki said as he drank from his coffee.

Aya smiled sheepishly. "Well, it was fateful." She pulled her tongue out. "Why are you alone?" she asked curiously. "I wanted to meet your wife."

Saeki laughed. "Hehâ€| My wife huh?" he scratched the back of his head. "Well, I really didn't want to shock you, but I'm married to a guy!"

Aya almost choked on her drink. "Aâ€| guy?" she asked believing she had heard wrong.

Saeki nodded. "Someone I knew from my childhood."

"Conâ€| congratulations."

"You don't approve?" he asked with a mock hurt look on his face.

Aya smiled. "You know meâ€| If you're happy then I'm happy too!" she laughed. "Just don't tell Fay."

Saeki lifted an eyebrow. "How is Miss Drama Queen?"

"Draâ€|" she laughed more. "She is fine. Can you believe that she has turned into a workaholic?"

"Fay? A workaholic?! That posh princess?" he asked amused. "No way!" he crinkled his nose remembering Aya's best friend. Frankly, he wasn't too fond of her because he believed that she was spoilt, but he wasn't one to disrespect his best friend's one and only. _As long as we're not near each other than we're fineâ€| _

Aya nodded still laughing. "By the way, Arisa is getting married and we are arranging a surprise engagement party."

Saeki's eyes widened a bit at the news. "That's great news," he said excited. "He finally made the big decision. Good for him. Arisa was so in love with him."

"She still is and by the way, you're invited at the party," Aya said smiling brightly. "I will also call the old gang. Arisa will be thrilled to see all of you guys!"

Saeki nodded.

"Sorry I'm late." Sanada had returned to the table. "What time are you singing Aya?" he asked looking at his watch.

"Soon," she answered, looking at her own watch.

* * *

><p>At a restaurant down town Tokyo<p>

"You're late."

Fay rubbed her eyes wearily and sat down opposite Yosuke. They had been friends for a while and she loved his company. He had asked her to lunch today and she knew she couldn't refuse because she had been cancelling on him all last week because of her job.

"And you look horrible."

Fay glared at him, "Thank you for letting a girl know that she looks like crap."

Yosuke laughed. "I'm just being honest," he said with a wink. _Beautiful as always even when she's grumpy, _he thought amused.

Fay rolled her eyes. "Soâ€| you're in a teasing mood!" she exhaled. "Dear me!"

"You complain too much." He picked up the menu and skimmed through it. "If you were my girlfriend I would have broken up with you."

"Really?" Fay said raising her eyebrow. "Did you ever consider the fact that I would never go out with someone like youâ€| even if you begged?"

Yosuke laughed and closed the menu. "That was very cold Fay-chan~" he said teasingly. He took her hand and winked at her, "Admit itâ€| you love me."

"Yeahâ€¦ Yeahâ€¦" she muttered, snatching her hand away, _seriouslyâ€¦ I hate it when he teases me like this._

"Do you have plans for tonight?" he asked studying Fay as she flipped through the menu.

Fay closed the menu. "Yep. I'm going at VOX to see my friend sing."

"I see."

"You should know her by now. She's your brother's girlfriend," Fay said and drank from her glass of water.

Yosuke rubbed his jaw. "Never met her."

Fay looked at him a bit taken aback. "What do you mean you never met her?" she asked feeling a bit bothered thinking he was teasing her again. "She is your brother's girlfriend."

"I know, but I never met the woman." He defended himself. "I know her name is Aya, but that's all there is to it. I would be very surprised if Genichirou has even mentioned to her that he has a brother."

What is he talking about; "Why wouldn't he tell you?"

Yosuke sighed. "Do I need to tell you why?" _Why do women always ask questions they know the answers to already?_

"No," Fay said and looked away. _This is something I didn't need to know. _

"Fay, you already know that he lovâ€¦"

"Yosuke, please don't," she interrupted inaudibly. "It hurts to talk about it and I'm in a relationship. So is your brother and he's very happy."

_I know when he's happy and when he's notâ€¦ and he's not. He's trying, but he's not. _He studied her and then sighed. "Fine," he said with a shrug. He leaned on the chair and folded his hands, "Let's just order for now."

"I'm sorry." Fay looked at him guiltily, for she felt that she had sort of ruined his mood.

"Don't be."

* * *

><p>At the girls' apartment<p>

"Come on! Come on!" Fay said, grabbing her purse and jacket. She looked at Niou who was leaning on the wall and waved for him to hurry. "We'll be late."

"We still have an hour," he said, strolling towards her.

"No! We'll be late," she mumbled, searching for her keys. "Traffic will be really bad and we have to beat it! I've never missed any of Aya's performances and she specifically wants me there tonight."

Niou didn't say anything. He stood next to her and hugged her waist. "Your dress is lovely," he murmured, kissing her cheek.

Fay raised her eyebrow, looking at him. "Babe, not now," she said, trying to put her sandals on, but he kept a firm hold on her waist.

"I missed you," he whispered, making her lean up as he gave her baby kisses on her lips.

Fay responded lightly to each one as she tried to put on her sandals. After she wore them, she pushed him away. "Stop it! I told you that we have to move," she said, walking to the door, but he grabbed her waist again and held her close.

"I haven't seen you properly in two weeks because of your stupid job," he complained, leaning down to nibble on her neck.

Fay put her hands on his shoulders and stopped him. "Move! If I miss Aya's performance, she will kill me," she said, glaring at him.

Niou smirked and ignored her comment. He put his hands on her waist and angled his lips to kiss her, but didn't yet. "I will move only if you kiss me," he said with a grin.

"Masaharu, now is not the time for games! We really are late! Take me seriously."

"Nope," he said, rubbing his nose with hers. "I'm serious too."

"Argh!" Fay swore. She pulled his head and placed her lips hard on his lips. She let it linger a bit and moved away, but he pulled her into his arms and took full advantage of her mouth on his. He wrapped his arms around her as he kissed her.

Fay wanted to move away, but he didn't let her so she decided to indulge him with the kiss he wanted. She opened her mouth for him and he slid his tongue in. Their kiss wasn't as furious as always, but rather soft and tender. Fay found herself walking closer into his arms as her hands moved gently to rub his covered chest. Finally, he moved away and she looked at him. "Satisfied?"

"No," he said, leaning down to kiss her again.

"Masahaâ€¦ Hmmâ€¦" Fay whispered, kissing him back. Her hands moved up and she placed them around his neck.

Niou deepened the kiss and held her waist tightly. He moved his hand to the back of her head and caressed her long hair, moving his fingers between them. Slowly, he began moving closer and tried lifting the hem of her mini dress.

"Don't even think about it," Fay whispered against his mouth, trying to move away, but he wouldn't let her.

Niou lifted her up and walked to the sofa. "I missed you and I want you _now_," he said, placing her on the sofa.

Fay moved to scramble, but he caught her hand. "Damn it! We're going to be late," she yelled, struggling with him.

"Don't fight me, woman!" he said, leaning on top of her to kiss her. "Iâ€|" he kissed her tenderly, lifting her arms and pinning her wrists above her head. "I missed my baby," he said, lifting her dress up.

Fay didn't say anything as he kissed her again. She just responded and knew that things were leading to something else. She lost her senses and finally gave in to his caresses until they were both breathless.

Niou had his forehead against her and looking into her eyes as she tried to regulate her breathing. After a few minutes, he closed his eyes and slept. Fay followed suit.

Fay stirred in her sleep lazily. She cuddled to the body next to her and then froze. "SHIT!" she yelled as she jolted up. She looked at her watch and realized that she was an hour lateâ€| _Oh my god! I'm so deadâ€| _she thought, holding her head. She looked for her cell phone frantically and realized that she had seven miscalls. Looking through them, she paled when she realized that there were six from Aya and one from Sanada. There was also a text message from Sanadaâ€|

_Aya is on stage. _

Fay's eyes scrolled to the time and covered her mouth when she realized that the text was sent to her an hour ago. _â€| I've never missed a single show of Aya's, _she thought frustrated. She wanted to scream, but didn't when she felt Niou stirring beside her.

"Hey, sweetie," he murmured, holding her hand.

Fay shrugged her hand and stood up. "I'm leaving."

Niou sat up, looking at her with a frown. "Excuse me?"

Fay put on her shoes and looked around for her jacket. "I'm going," she said flatly.

"What theâ€|? Fay?!" he stood up, buttoning his shirt up.

"You made me miss Aya's performance!" she snapped angrily, glaring at him. "I've never missed a single performance!"

He shrugged. "Big deal, Fay," he muttered, fixing his hair.

"Don't give me that type of attitude! This was important to me," she said aggravated.

"Aya will understand," he said, putting on his shoes.

"UNDERSTAND WHAT?!" Fay yelled, standing in front of him. "That I missed HER performance because YOU wanted to have sex?!"

"I'm not having this fight with you, Fay," he said, picking up his jacket from the floor.

"Then you can enjoy going by yourself, because I am not going there with you," she said, walking out of the door.

_Damn it! If I had the strength I wouldâ€¦| _"Argh!" he swore, walking after her.

* * *

><p>Later

"I'm very disappointed."

Fay sighed and hugged her. She ignored Sanada and Saeki at the table.

Aya was pouting and not looking at anyone. "I wrote this song especially for you andâ€¦| you weren't even here! You promised!"

"Ayaâ€¦|"

"No." Aya interrupted.

Fay glared at her, "Will you at least listen to me?!" she demanded.

Sanada and Saeki both stopped in surprise and looked at Fay.

Before Aya could retort, "Sweetie, it's my fault," Niou walked in and kissed Aya's cheek.

Aya moved away and locked her eyes with his. _Why does he sound too sincere? And Fay is unconsciously glowingâ€¦| andâ€¦|. _ Aya gasped when realization hit her. "Did you twoâ€¦|"

Niou placed his hand on her mouth and dragged her away. "Oyâ€¦| Don't publicize it," he hissed when they were away from the others.

Aya looked furious. "I can't believe you missed it because youâ€¦| ARGH! I don't even know what to say," she said annoyed.

Niou poked her forehead. "Oy! I haven't seen my woman in three weeks. At the end of the day I'm still a man."

She crossed her arms; "Oh shut up" she looked away.

Niou hugged her shoulder. "In all honesty, she's mad at me too," he admitted. "She said we'd be late."

"I'm surprised you're defending her," Aya mumbled.

Niou grinned. "I can't have both of you mad at me, better her than you," he kissed her cheek.

Aya rolled her eyes as they both walked back to their table._ I should be mad, but can't be anymoreâ€¦|_

14. Chapter 14

"Shut it up! Shut it up!" Aya groaned in her sleep as she hugged Fay's waist tightly.

Fay opened her eyes and groaned as well. After assessing what the infuriating sound was, she realized that it was her ring tone. Fay tried to move, but couldn't because Aya was holding on to her for dear life.

"Shut that noise," Aya whined.

"I will if you let go," Fay hissed. _When did she get into my bed?!_

Aya let go and Fay rolled to her side to pick up her cell phone. She rolled onto her back and placed it next to her ear as Aya hugged her snugly again. "Hello?"

"Where are you?"

Fay blinked when she heard that. She looked at her cell phone display and narrowed her eyes in annoyance. "What do you mean where am I? It's my day off today."

Atobe let out a huge sigh that could be heard over the phone and spoke. "I need you here."

_You have got to be kidding me! _Fay thought, waking up fully now. She was so stunned by his request that she didn't even answer him. _If he repeats that! I'm going to kill him! I'm going to go to the office, just to kill him. _

"Look, I'm sorry. I'll make it up to you, but I need you in the office because we have two board meetings."

Fay gritted her teeth. "You know why I took off today."

"Do you think I would be the type to call and beg?!" he snapped.

"You're not begging me! You're ordering me."

"First meeting is at 10 AM. You have plenty of time to get here. I expect to see you here," he said in an irritated tone and then hung up.

Fay gasped at the phone. _Oh, he did not hang up on me! _she held onto her temper and then swore out loud, "son of a bitch!"

"Let me sleep," Aya whined.

Fay looked at her clock and realized that it was 7. _That bastard totally ruined my mood. It's not even a time to be at the office, but he still calls me. _Fay knew that she had to go. She closed her eyes trying to sleep, but was too angry to do so. She unhooked Aya's arms from around her waist and stood up, going to the shower.

Aya woke up when she felt 'alone' on the bed. She looked around Fay's room and frowned. _I doubt she started work; she's too lazy to do house chores. _"Fay?" she called, moving to her side. She placed her feet on the floor and stretched her arms above her head.

"I'm here," she said, walking out of the bathroom dressed for work.

Aya's jaw dropped. "Please tell me you're not?! I'll kill you if you are."

Fay didn't say anything as she pulled her hair into a ponytail.

"I will kill you if you tell me that you're going to work," she threatened, glaring at her.

Fay sighed, "Then it's best that I don't say anything."

Aya gasped. "YOU CAN'T DO THIS TO ME!"

Fay rolled her eyes and pulled out a notepad. "Stop being a drama queen," she said, writing on the paper. In a few minutes, she ripped the paper from the notepad and handed it to Aya, "just prepare whatever you can and I'll help with the rest. I just have to go to two meetings, kill Atobe and then come back," she said, picking up her purse as she wore her sandals.

Aya didn't get the chance to protest. She muttered things under her breath and looked at the list. "WHAT?!" _she wants me to cook fifteen dishes! I'm going to kill her. _"FAY!"

* * *

><p>"Idiot," Fay muttered walking into Atobe's office.
"Bastard!"<p>

Atobe looked up from his file, "What?" _Did she just swear at me, _he thought. "Were you referring to me by any chance?"

"No!" she snapped, walking in further. "It's these two idiots!" she almost shouted, "These two ridiculous little idiots actually tried hitting on me in the elevator with their crude comments," she said shaking her head in disbelief. "How could they think thatâ€| ARGH" she bit out. _I do not need this! I'm already angry for being here._

"Maybe you should try wearing a longer skirt, that is, if what you're wearing is a skirt," he said dryly, eyeing her attire that was a short mini skirt suit.

"Don't push my buttons, Atobe!" she said, sitting down in front of him fuming. "You knew I had plans! It is your best friend's engagement tonight."

"Woman, I do not mix business with friends, so drop it," he said firmly, looking at his computer screen.

Fay didn't look amused.

"Now, stand up and follow me. We have our first meeting in five

minutes. Also, note that you've got tempting legs," he said, standing up, "Even the women in the office stare you up and down so kindly wear pants next time."

Fay followed him with smoke coming out of her ears; _I'm going to kill him. I swear I am._

* * *

><p>Aya was in the kitchen going through the list of food she had to prepare. She sighed and walked to the fridge. She opened it and took out the things she need. She went back to the counter and picked the list up. "How am I supposed to finish all these dishes alone," she pouted to no one present.<p>

She started peeling the potatoes while she sang the lyrics of her new song but was cut off by the ringing of her phone. She looked where the sound of her phone was heard and walked towards the table where she had left it. She answered it without checking the caller ID. "Sawada," she said boringly.

"Aya, I can't talk much, so listen to me," Fay's voice was heard hurriedly.

"Heeeyyâ€| "

"Don't start. Now, I won't be able to come early home so you will have to manage the cooking," she said quickly, "also, I asked Masaharu to go get the cake so it will be home before anyone comes. Now I have to go but text me if you need anything! I owe you," she said and hung up.

Aya pulled the phone away from her ear and starred at it trying to comprehend the situation. Once she absorbed everything that Fay told her she felt irritation build up inside her. She left her phone on the table and stomped towards the counter to continue peeling the potatoes mumbling all sorts of swearwords she could come up with.

* * *

><p>Atobe Keigo was enraged. This was the second meeting he was in and again he noticed Fay on her cell phone, not paying attention to the members. The others didn't notice her lack of interest, but he did and she was starting to annoy him. He scooted his chair closer to her and snatched the cell phone from her hands under the table.<p>

"Hey! "

Atobe looked taken aback at her sudden yell and all ten board members went quiet and looked at her.

Fay froze and then smiledâ€| hesitating she looked at them. "I mean, heyâ€| That's a good idea,"

Atobe rubbed his face wearily in disappointment_, I'm going to kill her, I swear I am._

* * *

><p>Aya had already been in the kitchen cooking for the last four hours. She leaned over the counter and with a pen she ticked the 9th dish out of the fifteen she was supposed to do. Leaving the pen over the paper she stretched her hands above her head. "I'm tired," she said with a sigh as she walked to the sink to wash some of the pots she used and was about to need for the next dish.<p>

The doorbell rang and she hurried to answer it since she was also waiting for the decoration team to come since Fay had appointed her chief-in-charge. She shook her head helpless at that thought. She opened the door and froze staring at the person who was standing outside her apartment.

"Hello Aya,"

Aya blinked. "Yuuâ€| YUUSHIIIIII!" she yelled and covered her mouth in embarrassment. "What are you doing here at this hour? Shouldn't you be at work? Dinner is tonight not now," she said in a muffled voice as she still kept her mouth covered.

Oshitari looked at her puzzled over her weird reaction. "Wellâ€| Atobe gave me the day off for no reason so I thought I'd spend sometime with you since you are on holiday!" he said and took a step to enter the apartment.

"Stop!" Aya said and placed her hands on his shoulders. _What to do?_ She thought as she tried to find a good excuse to send him away, _what to do?_ "Ummâ€| You cant come inâ€| the houseâ€| is messy!" she said with a nervous smile.

"So? I have seen your home messy before. You are not the tidiest person in the world unlike Fay!" He chuckled at the look Aya gave him.

"Heeyyâ€|" She crossed her arms glaring at him. "Wait here, I'll be back in two minutes," she said and closed the door. _Now what?_ She thought as she ran to the kitchen and picked up her phone. She dialed a number and waited for the other person to answer. "Genichirouâ€|" she said before he could even say anything.

"Aya?" he asked surprise obvious in his tone.

Aya sweat-dropped. "Gen-chan, I need a big favor," she said while she took a look at the food in the oven. "I need you to come over and cook for tonight. I have everything you will need. I finished nine out of the fifteen dishes that's on the list but something came up and I can't continue. Also the decoration Delivery will come anytime soon and someone has to be here." She finished in one breath.

"Aya, I'm at work. I can't just leave."

Aya was taking off the apron when Sanada spoke to her so she didn't hear his response. She picked the phone up again after a few seconds. "Oh, thank you darling. I will owe you. You know where we leave the spare key. I love you," she said in a hurry. "I wont be late. Just make sure to cook everything written on the list. Bye." She hung up as she opened the door of her home. "Okay. Lets go now," she said cheerfully grabbing Oshitari's arm and pulled him away from her apartment.

* * *

><p>(Sanada's office)

Sanada looked at his phone and sighed. He scratched his head feeling a bit annoyed about the whole situation. He was thinking about his current predicament when Niou tapped his shoulder. "Masaharu?"

"You spaced out, and that is something that you don't do," Niou said plopping himself on the chair opposite Sanada. "So what's up?" he asked playing with his tie.

Sanada leaned back in his chair and sighed. "Aya just called me and asked me if I could go cook for tonight's party," he tapped the pen he was holding on his desk. "She didn't actually give me a choice to say no."

Niou laughed. "I didn't know that your sweetheart was the bossy type," he teased. "As you can see today is rather quiet day so go over and do what ever it is she wants you to do." He got up from the chair he was sitting and walked towards his office. "I will be over early too so I'll see you there. Want me to bring you clothes?" he asked.

Sanada nodded. "There on my bed so just bring them with you." He wore his jacket and took his mobile phone. He walked out of the office and went to his car. _I wonder what happened with the preparations,_ he thought as he started the car and left the building parking.

* * *

><p>Fay opened the door to the apartment and walked in hurriedly. She heard clattering in the kitchen and smiled thinking of Aya running wild in the kitchen trying to finish her chores. She went to her room and took off her shoes; she threw her bag and jacket on a chair and unbuttoned her shirt. I am so tired, she thought as she pulled her hair down. _And that idiot lecturing me didn't help my mood at all_

She exited her room and walked to the kitchen; she was still wearing her shirt unbuttoned since she was going to have a shower after seeing what Aya had accomplished in the kitchen. _I feel sorry for her_, she thought as she opened the door and entered the kitchen.

"So what? Has my baby managed to finish?" she froze on the spot when her eyes focused on the person that was behind the counter chopping vegetables. "Sanada?" she whispered softly still gazing at the man that was looking at her wide eyed.

Sanada looked away embarrassed. "Do you mind closing your shirt." He coughed.

What? She thought but realized that she was exposed. She lifted her hands quickly and covered her upper body embarrassed as a deep red color spread on her face. "I'm sorry," she said and left the kitchen running back to her room.

She slammed the door and sat on the edge of her bed breathing heavily. _Damn it,_ she thought irate. _Where the hell is Aya?_ She

looked around for her bag. She found it and got up to fetch her phone from inside it. She dialed Aya's number and waited for her to pick up.

"Sawada."

"WHERE THE HELL ARE YOU?" yelled Fay over the phone.

"Why are you yelling?" Aya asked her surprised.

Fay paced up and down in her room trying to calm herself down. "Why is Sanada in our home cooking when you should have been the one doing that?" she asked rubbing her temples.

She heard Aya excuse herself. "Yuushi came over," she said lowering her voice. "Your stupid boss gave him the day off so he came over to our house to spend sometime with me because I am on holiday."

Fay sighed helpless. "So you brought Sanada over to cook in order for you to occupy Yuushi," she said as she sat on the bed, "and it never crossed your mind that you should at least inform me about this?"

"I'm sorry," Aya whined, "but it's not like I did it on purpose."

"Fine fine What time are you coming over, we need to finish the decoration," Fay said lying on the bed.

Aya didn't answer.

"Aya, I'm talking to you." She sighed closing her eyes.

"I can't come."

Fay's eyes opened jolting from the bed. "What do you mean you can't come?" she asked.

"It's your turn to do chores for the party," Aya mused.

"Get your ass at home NOW!" Fay yelled exasperated at her friend for ditching her like that.

"No."

Fay looked at the phone shocked. "FINE!" she hung up and stomped into the bathroom. She had a quick shower and then proceeded to the kitchen to help Sanada with the chores.

She entered the kitchen slowly and walked to the counter. "What can I do to help," she said feeling a little bit better after her dispute with Aya.

Sanada turned around and looked at her. "I'm almost done. So you can sit and keep me company," he said softly.

Fay blushed remembering the previous moment when she walked in the kitchen half naked. "I'm sorry for before. I didn't know that Aya wasn't here." She smiled, "I will go do the decorations then."

"I left the boxes in the living room," he said as he washed the pots on the sink.

Fay looked at him and smiled before she walked out of the kitchen and into the living room. _I never pictured him doing housework,_ she thought amused, _or cook!_ She saw three boxes near the couch; she sat on the couch and pulled one of the boxes in front of her. She opened it and started pulling out the decorations from inside.

This is odd, she thought going through the contents of the box; she pulled out something that looked like a lash and frowned thinking that something was very wrong. _There should be a list of what we ordered somewhere._ She looked around for the paper that was left with the boxes; she found it on the small table next to the couch.

She picked the list of contents and read through it. "WHAT?" she yelled.

Sanada stormed in the living room after hearing Fay's yell. "Are you okay?" he said rushing over to her.

"I am going to kill her. I am going toâ€¦ I swearâ€¦ She's not going to live another night," she said irate.

"Fay," Sanada said and placed his hand on her shoulder pulling her out her murderous thoughts.

Fay looked up and saw Sanada looking at her with a concerned expression on his face. "I'm sorry," she sighed and showed him the list. "Aya ordered the wrong decorations for the party," she said disappointed.

Sanada took the list and read it carefully. "I see," he said trying hard not to laugh. "I don't think that it's Aya's fault though."

"What do you mean?"

"I was the one who signed for the boxes." He chuckled. "The guy that came said he had done a mistake when he saw me. So he went down and brought three new boxes saying that those were the ones we ordered."

Fay held her head. "Dear me, what a mix up." She sat on the couch and picked up the phone. She called the Decorations Company and explained everything that happened; she couldn't believe the events that had occurred throughout the day. _It was supposed to be easy, _she thought tiredly.

"They will bring our things in half an hour, so let me help you in the kitchen," she said and stood up.

Sanada nodded and they both walked back to the kitchen. They busied themselves to finish every little thing on the food list until the decorations were delivered. While Fay was wiping the dishes Sanada was in charge of the salads.

"You know what the funny part is?" she asked as she placed the dishes on the table. "I opened the box and pulled out a lash." She started

laughing. "I would love to see what the reaction would be if I decorated the room with a Bachelor theme and had strippers come over!"

Sanada laughed. "That would be quite a sight," he said regaining his posture.

"Yeah it would," Fay said, her eyes looking at the man her heart desired.

* * *

><p>A couple of hours later

A knock was heard on the door Fay's room. "Genichirou, are you ready? The guests will start coming anytime soon." Aya shouted from outside the door to be heard.

The door opened and Sanada stood in front of Aya half dressed. "Why are you shouting?" he asked looking at her. "You can come in if you want." He turned around and walked towards Fay's bed; he picked his shirt up and wore it.

Aya blushed when he opened the door, as he was naked from the waist up. "I know, but this is not my room," she said and plopped herself on the bed. "Thank you for helping out today." A smile made its way on her lips. "You really saved me."

Sanada looked at her and leaned his body so that he could come to eye level with her. "You're welcome," he said and kissed her lips gently. He pulled away and walked to the bathroom to dry his hair and finish dressing up.

"Iâ€| I will go see if Fay needs anything," Aya said jumping off the bed and exited the room. The moment she did the doorbell rang and she averted her eyes at the door. _I guess the first guests are here;_ she thought making her way to open the door.

Aya opened the door and welcomed the first guests that had arrived. "BANEâ€|" she launched herself into the arms of Kurobane Harukaze. "It so nice to see you!" she squealed hugging her old friend tightly.

Fay and Aya stood at the hallway looking at the people in the living room. "I guess everyone is here," Aya said cheerfully. "Ummâ€| I didn't talk to any of the people your invited just our guys."

Fay laughed. "Yeahâ€| Well if its any consolation, neither did I!"

"Soâ€| we have a bunch of strangers in our house and we are happy about it," Aya giggled, "What time are Yuushi and Arisa coming?" she asked looking at the clock on the wall.

Fay shrugged. "I suppose they will be here soonâ€| Oh! The door!" she said walked to open it.

"Will go mingle with the peopleâ€| Our friends I mean." Aya pushed her tongue out and went to where the crowd was.

Fay opened the door and greeted the person who came. "Yosuke!" she said and hugged the man with a bright smile on her face. "I was starting to fear that you wouldn't show up," she laughed.

"Honestly, I wasn't going to come, but I was curious about my brother's girlfriend." He winked and laughed when Fay hit his shoulder playfully. "Where is she?"

"Seriously Yosuke, grow up." Fay walked away and he followed her. "Do you see the red-haired girl sitting close to your brother?" Yosuke nodded. "That's her."

"She is prettier than you Fay," he said looking at Aya and wince in pain when Fay kicked him. "Hey!" seriously, she is prettier than you, but your girl, you're so sexy it makes up for what you lack in beauty!"

"I hate you!" Fay whispered annoyed crossing her hands.

* * *

><p>"Are you sure the girls are at home Yuushi," Arisa asked as they both walked towards the girls apartment and saw that there were no lights on.<p>

Oshitari scratched his head. "Of course. When I left Aya said to come over around nine." He looked at the door and hit the bell.

They waited for a few minutes until the door opened and Aya popped her head. "Hey guys," she said and opened the door to greet her friends. "Come on!" We have been waiting for you!" she hugged Arisa.

Arisa and Oshitari looked at each other and entered the apartment. Why is it so dark? He thought making his way to dark living room.

"Wait!" Aya pulled them both from their jackets to stop them. "Lights please!" she shouted.

"SURPRISE!"

The lights opened and both Oshitari and Arisa were surrounded by twenty people who started congratulating them.

After a long while of thanking people and talking with old friends Oshitari made his way towards Fay and Aya who were in the kitchen filling glasses for their guests. "Who from the two of you will have the honor to die by my hands for organizing this?" he smirked.

Both girls looked at him grinning mischievously; Aya pointed at Fay and Fay pointed at Aya.

Oshitari sighed. "You two!" he hugged them both. "Thank you," he whispered content.

* * *

><p>During the party

"Hey you two!"

Aya and Fay turned around to see Arisa grinning happily. "Hey" both said in unison.

"Thank you guys for this," she said and hugged Fay first and then Aya. "I can't believe you organized all this."

"There were a few obstacles but we managed," Fay smiled at her friend.

"Yeah" Fay went to work although she took the day off and then Yuushi turned up!" Aya giggled. "I freaked out not knowing what to do and I had Genichirou come cook!"

Arisa laughed. "Seriously? Well no one is poisoned so everything is fine."

"No no no no no no" both Aya and Fay said in unison again. "Sanada is a great cook," Fay piped up with a bright smile while Aya nodded.

"I see" I should try something then." Arisa took an appetizer from one of the plates behind Fay.

"The biggest obstacle was the decorations," Fay said and took a sip from her drink. "They did a mistake and gave us bachelor decorations," she laughed, "imagine my surprise when I pulled out a lash!"

All three girls started laughing loud and some of the people that were close turned to look at them having a fit. "Did you keep the lash?" Arisa asked between laughs.

"No" Of course not" What was I going to do with it anyway?" Fay answered trying to catch her breath.

"You could have given it to me. I'd love to whip Yuushi's little butt!" Arisa laughed.

"EEEEEEWWWWWW" both Aya and Fay grimaced upon hearing Arisa's comment. "Hell" I don't even want to think of Yuushi naked" Ewww" Go away," said Aya shooing Arisa away disgusted at the thought.

"Same here," Fay agreed with her friend. "Now I will have nightmares for the rest of my life!"

* * *

><p>The party was in its heights and everyone was either talking or dancing except for Aya and Fay who were running around making sure that their guests had their glasses always filled.<p>

"This is exhausting," Aya complained as she entered in the kitchen. She placed two glasses on the counter. "Fill them up with champagne please," she said and took off the heels she was wearing.

"Don't order me around," Fay muttered a bit annoyed. "What are you

doing?" she asked looking at Aya.

"Always the brat that doesn't take orders."

Both Aya and Fay looked up at the voice. Aya smiled while Fay scowled, "Oy, you're in my home, my party so behave yourself." Fay glared at him.

Saeki grinned while Aya gave him a look telling him to behave as well. Saeki took the stool and sat on it as the girls' went on doing their things. It always surprised him how the two women in front of him were total opposites, yet remained as soul mates.

"What are you doing?" he heard Fay ask Aya.

"My feet are killing me. I don't know why I even listened to you and wore heels," she grumbled massaging her feet. "I can't stand wearing them." She straightened herself and walked to the sink to wash her hands. "From now on I will walk barefooted."

"It's dangerous Aya you might step on something, especially with the crowd outside." Saeki looked at her, "just get a pair of flats."

"I hate to agree with him, but he's right..." Fay rolled her eyes and filled the two glasses with champagne. "Go put on something more comfortable and then tell me who these glasses are for?" she asked nibbling on a biscuit.

"Some friends of Yuushi's, Shishido and Ootoriâ€¦ I think!" Aya answered, ignoring their comments and taking the two glasses. She walked barefoot not even bothering to be careful as she carried them out of the kitchen.

"Careless woman," Fay muttered.

Saeki nodded.

Fay poured some ice into a bowl and glanced at Saeki who was looking everywhere but at her, "so why are you hiding here?"

He shrugged, "It's getting too loud, and my head hurts."

_Such a baby, _she thought.

* * *

><p>Aya walked through the crowd and found Oshitari surrounded by his friends. "Excuse meâ€¦ here are your drinks." She handed the glasses to the owners with a cheerful smile.<p>

"Sawada-san."

Aya turned around when she heard her name and came face to face with Atobe. "Atobe-san," she said still smiling.

Atobe smirked. "Dance with me," he ordered softly.

"What?" she asked taken aback not expecting the invitation.

Instead of repeating himself he took her hand and pulled her through

the people that were dancing in the middle of the room. He pulled her close and placed one hand around her waist possessively and the other was holding her hand tightly to his chest.

"Ummâ€¦ Atobe-san," Aya whispered close to his ear. "Why don't you dance with someone else? I have to look after the guests!"

Atobe chuckled and lowered his head a bit to reach Aya's ear. "It's only one dance Sawada-san," he whispered making her tremble at the feeling of his breath caressing her skin.

"Ummâ€¦"

"Yes?" he said, looking at her. He sensed her blush and wanted to chuckle at how embarrassed she looked.

"You're too close," she mumbled, trying to keep some distance between them.

Atobe chuckled and brought her even closer, he wanted to tell her not to worry when he felt someone stand next to them. He looked to his side and noticed Niou Masaharu. "Yes?"

Niou grinned, "Can I cut in and dance with my angel?"

"Not tonight," Atobe answered grimly.

Niou narrowed his eyes while Aya looked flustered; _man this is too weird. I'm never between two men like this! Only Fay causes these drama scenes. _"Uhhâ€¦"

"She already has a boyfriend, Atobe-sama," Niou said sarcastically, "I'm guessing you're a bit too close for comfort."

Atobe raised an eyebrow, "and who made you her boyfriend's lawyer?"

"Okâ€¦ okâ€¦ stop," Aya said, standing between them. "I'll take that dance with Haru, Atobe-san," she said sweetly, "he has a temper."

"Haru?" Atobe asked looking at Aya. "Whatever." He brushed a hand through his hair gracefully. "I will take another turn later," he said and left.

"Over my dead body!"

Aya laughed and walked closer into Niou's embrace; "How come you're not dancing with your girlfriend?" she asked him as they danced.

"Well, I was going too but then I saw him advancing on you and I thought I'd play Zorro and rescue you!" he winked.

"Zorro?" Aya laughed, "How do you come up with these things."

Niou laughed too.

"Seriously, go to her. I think she will like to spend some time with you today," she said sweetly and shooed him away.

Okayâ€| Now that Niou will occupy Fay, Aya thought looking around the crowd, _lets find my lover and dance with him. Lover? Yeah rightâ€|_ She stood still for a moment; _I thought he was wearing a gray suit, why is his suit brown?_

Now I have to convince him to dance with me. Tough! She walked up to Sanada and hugged his arm. "Genichirou dance with me!" she said sweetly and pulled him to follow her.

Sanada didn't say anything he just followed her silently. _ooohâ€| I love this songâ€|_ "Come on! Come on! This is my favorite song," she exclaimed, standing in front of him.

She hugged him tightly and placed her head on his chest. "It was easier than I thought," she smiled happily and nuzzled in his arms. _It's so weirdâ€| even his scent is differentâ€|_

"I am so happy that this party was such a success! Don't you thiâ€|" she looked up, but froze. "Ohâ€| Eep!" she exclaimed, backing off. "You're not my Gen-chan!" she accused when she saw a Sanada duplicate grinning like a fool.

Yosuke chuckled and could see that Aya was turning red. "You never asked," he said laughing.

"Who are you?" she asked looking away embarrassed.

"I'm Gebichirou's older brother Yosuke," he said with a warm smile. "Nice to meet you Aya!"

"Broâ€| brother?" _he never told me of any brother_; she looked at the man in front of her in disbelief. "He never told me he has a brother."

Yosuke sighed. "It's so like him to not say a thing about his family," he explained as they danced. "He is sitting over there if you want to dance with him." He made a gesture with his hand for Aya to see.

Aya looked towards where Yosuke showed and saw Sanada talking with Saeki and Kurobane. "Nahâ€| its okâ€| I will dance with him later!" she shook her head; "now I want to get as much information I can from you!" she grinned mischievously.

* * *

><p>"Stop it," Fay whispered against his lips.<p>

Niou held her upper arms tightly and caressed the sensitive area under her ear with his lips.

"Masaharuâ€|" she whined, moving her head to the side. "There are people here," she hissed, moving away from his clutched hands.

"Cheâ€|" he muttered, letting her arms go, but he kept his hand firmly on her waist while she stood in the kitchen, pouring the drinks. He watched her as she placed the wine glasses properly and admired how picky she was being.

"Don't 'che' me," she said, glancing at him. "I'm tired and there are still a few people here," she said with a sigh. _I wish I never invited him; it's more tiring when he's around. _"I even had to go to work and couldn't help Aya with preparations."

"That's been your problem lately, work! Every time I call you, its work! Work is important, but not important enough for you to allow it to butcher your social life. I don't' see you anymore." He looked at her. "Fay, this is supposed to be an important night for you, but you look too fatigued to enjoy it."

"I am having fun!"

He pulled her towards him, "but you look like you're going to collapse any minute."

"So what!" she demanded, pushing him away. "Stop lecturing me. I am not in the mood to hear it." She covered her ears, moving away from him.

"Your mood swings have also been intolerable," he remarked, crossing his arms. "If you had a bad day at work, don't take it out on me."

Fay looked at him sharply. "Excuse me? Are you saying that I complain a lot! I have bad days at work; Masaharu and I need someone I can talk to. I need someone I can complain to! You're my boyfriend, it comes with the package," she said, placing her hands on her hips.

"If you're not happy with your job then just leave, damn it!"

Fay looked at him and frowned. "I love my job! This is my dream job, but you need to be patient with me," she said, looking at him. "I am trying so hard to make it."

"I don't like it! You're always distant, tired, and just plain boring because all you do is complain." He looked at her as he rubbed his jaw wryly, "and you spend more time with your own boss than me!"

"_My boss?" I_s _he jealous? And Of course I'm boring! All we do is make out and just sleep with each other! We never talk or share secretsâ€¦| _ Fay looked away. She was angry, but didn't want to shout, so she simply walked to the kitchen table and finished the last thing she was working on.

He didn't say anything either. He just walked out of the kitchen.

Fay let out a sigh and continued her chopping. She was annoyed nowâ€¦| _every time I see him lately; I always manage to feel like crap afterwards. It's not helping that I am in love with his roommate either. _Fay let out another sigh and placed her hands on the counter. _I can't do this anymore._

Just as she thought of that, she felt his arms around her. "Mad?"

Fay moved away. "I can't do this anymore," she said, standing at the far edge of the kitchen. "I can't handle you anymore."

He looked at her and narrowed his eyes. "I'm the one who should be saying that! What the hell!" he muttered. "You're the one being intolerable!"

"How dare you say that to me?" she demanded. "All you and I do is sleep with each other. This is a relationship, not just comfort sex."

Niou walked towards her. "Do you think I'm playing here?" he asked, holding her upper arm. "I am serious about us."

"Well, you could've fooled me," she snapped pushing him away. "When did we ever not argue?" she asked angrily. "We always fight and I cannot take this anymore because when I come back home from work, I need peace and harmony. I don't want to face another battle." _I need someone that can calm me down, Niou. I need someone whose existence calms meâ€¦ I needâ€¦ _she covered her face and tried breathing. _Why am I thinking of Sanada at such a time? _

"It hurts me to see that look on your face," he said quietly then turned angry. "Whenever you have that look on your face, I can't help feel that you're comparing me to someone else."

Fay didn't say anything.

Niou let go off her and wanted to say something, but they were interrupted.

"Masaharuâ€¦" Sanada began, but stopped when he noticed the tension between them. "I'm sorry," he said quietly. "You just took too long," he said, walking out.

They both went quiet until he snapped. "Are you in love with someone else?"

Fay pushed him and took a few steps back. "Noâ€¦ No!" she said in denial. "I love no one, butâ€¦ I know it's not you. You drive me crazy." She held onto her head. "I don't think I can handle our fights anymore," she said, tears in her eyes. "I wanted to make this work, but you're not helping."

"Don't blame me for this."

"I'm not," she said quietly. "It's my fault." _It's my fault for loving someone else, _she thought sadly.

Niou watched her quietly, but didn't say anything.

Fay looked at the floor, feeling sad. She let out a sigh and looked up at him again. "I'm sorry."

"Oh, stop it," he muttered, rubbing his face in frustration. "You want to break up, fine, let's do it. Frankly, I can't tolerate your moods anymore."

Fay looked at him in surprise, but she didn't say anything. "Well, I'm sorry if I suddenly have something good in my life and I want to

build it up." She looked away, not being able to look at him anymore.

Niou pulled a cigarette and lit it. "That's your problem, Fay," he muttered, exhaling. "You're always selfish," he said, looking at her. "Good luck with your job and your life."

Fay bit her lip in annoyance, but she didn't say anything. She learned that at times being quiet is the best medicine and this is one of these moments.

He stayed like that smoking without making a sound.

Fay's eyes narrowed as she straightened herself. She walked up to him and held his upper arm. Leaning forward, she kissed his cheek gently. She was afraid that he would push her away, but he didn't. "I have a lot of respect for you. And I did love you in my own way I guess. I want you to be happy, Niou," she said softly, turning around. "I will not be able to make you happy."

He didn't say anything. He just straightened himself out and walked towards the kitchen entrance. "This is final, Mishima, be good," he said, walking out.

Aargh! I can't believe it's over just like that, Niou thought as he stood in front of the door that closed behind me. I feel like I'm suffocating! I have to leave. He looked around the room at the people that were still partying and frowned. I don't belong here!

He walked past by the crowd trying not to be noticed by Aya and Sanada. He took his jacket from Fay's room and left the apartment without letting anyone know.

* * *

><p>Fay leaned by the counter and held her heart; my heart's beating so fast! I can't believe it's over just like that. I just want to go into my bedroom and forget everything! it's so loud and I feel suffocating.

'Fay?'

Fay's eyes widened and she straightened herself up. "Yosuke," she said, looking at him cheerfully. "What's up?"

"What's wrong?"

Fay looked at him with a smile, "I'm just tired, please help me pour!" but she stopped when she felt him hold her upper arm firmly.

"Don't! Don't lie to ME!"

Fay didn't say anything. She just moved around the kitchen and placed the glasses onto the tray. She pulled out a champagne bottle and poured the drink. "I said I was fine," she said finally.

Yosuke leaned close and placed a hand on the table. "Your boyfriend just walked out not looking the least bit happy and you've been in

here far too long, did something happen?"

"You know," Fay looked up aggravated, "just maybe it's none of your business!"

Yosuke looked back at her as annoyed, "this is exactly what your problem is; you never open up when you're feeling the lowest in your life."

Fay looked at him wide eyed, "what?!"

"You seriously look like you went through shit right now and you're denying it. This is exactly why you're never happy or always upset; you don't let your feelings out. If you fought with your boyfriend, then youâ€|'

"We broke up!" she snapped, interrupting him rudely. "Don't assume stupid things on your own when you have no freaking clue!"

Yosuke stopped and sighed, "I'm sorry."

"Not accepted! Why do you always assume the worst about me? I'm fine, see?! Tonight's my good friends' engagement and nothing is going to upset me, so please go back outside so I can calm down."

"Fay?"

"Just leave," she said, not looking at him.

Yosuke moved closer and took her armsâ€|

"Hey!" Fay said in shock, but he didn't let her struggle, he put both arms around her and held her tightly.

"Breathe," he murmured in her ears. "Breathe in and out calmly; let all your frustrations out."

"Let go."

"Breathe, damn it!" he hissed.

Fay decided to listen for now and just placed her hands on his chest as he rubbed her back gently. She kept quiet as he held her because it felt comforting. She finally looked up at him and her heart ached, she unconsciously moved her hand to his jaw and frowned. _It hurts me how much you look like him._

"It hurts you, doesn't it," he said, holding her wrist tightly. He knew she was seeing his younger brother in him.

She moved away, while he didn't say anything.

Fay finally moved away, "I'll be fine; knew this would happen but wasn't expecting us to break up so soon. Call me a bitch, but I'm just indifferent. I don't feel anything."

"Denial."

"Just go and die," she muttered.

* * *

><p>Later

Fay walked to the living room with a glass of champagne in her hand. "So here you are?"

Aya jumped at the sound of Fay's voice. "Hey partnerâ€| What's up?" she grinned.

Fay sighed rolling her eyes and sat next to Aya. "You left me in the kitchen to slave myself," she complained tiredly. "It's a good thing that the guests came to fill their glasses in the kitchen."

Aya hugged Fay's shoulders and smiled. She kissed her cheek lovingly and grinned. By now, most of the guests had left and only a few really close friends had stayed behind. "Look at them, they're so happy." She watched Oshitari and Arisa dance closely to slow music.

Fay nodded. "Yes," she agreed happily. Her eyes went to the few remaining guests. Atobe, Sanada and two of Arisa's close friends were there. _I want that happinessâ€| I'm actually jealous of my own best friend._

Aya pulled Fay by the hand and brought her to the dance floor. "Dance with me!" she exclaimed cheerfully, laughing out loud.

Fay laughed with her. "Are you drunk?"

Aya pushed her tongue out and grinned. "Nope, I could never pull a Fay." She remembered that one night that Fay got drunk at Atobe's mansion.

Fay glared at her.

Aya kept on dancing while Fay just watched. After a while, Oshitari pulled Aya for a dance and Arisa took a seat next to Fay.

Aya grinned and put her arms around Oshitari's neck. "I love you for making her so happy," she told him sincerely.

"I can't be happy?" he joked, holding her waist. "You look cheerful yourself. Is everything going well for you and Sanada?"

Aya nodded and then unconsciously blushed.

* * *

><p>(Valentine flashback Sanada and Aya)_

"_Stopâ€| "_

Sanada looked down in surprise. Stop? He thought, holding her wrists. Did she say stop? He looked down at Aya's face again and saw her looking at him with a blush spreading on her face. They were both half naked. Sanada was in his pants only and Aya wearing her underwear. "Didâ€| Did I hurt you?"

Aya shook her head, feeling embarrassed. "No, I justâ€¦" I've wanted this for so long, but I'm very nervous. "I just can't go through with this tonight," she said, looking away. "I'm sorry."

Sanada cupped her face and smiled. "It's alright, Aya," he said softly, moving to his side as he hugged her. He held her in his arms and caressed her hair tenderly. "Let's just sleep."

Aya nodded, feeling relieved and closed her eyes. "I'm sorry," she whispered again.

* * *

><p>"Is something wrong?"<p>

Aya shook her head and chuckled nervously. "No, noâ€¦ It's all good." _I can't believe that I remembered that nightâ€¦ _"Yuushi, why don't you take Fay for a dance? I don't think she danced at all tonight."

Oshitari nodded. "Fine. I'll go kidnap her."

It was after about two more hours that the last person left the party and it's was finally over. The only ones left sitting at the living room were Oshitari, Arisa, Sanada, Atobe, Fay and Aya.

Aya was sitting in Sanada's lap. "Did anyone see Haru?" she asked at the people present.

_What? He left already? Like that? _She looked around the living room to see if he was hiding in some corner. "He must have left early!" Fay said as she got up from the couch she was sitting in. "I will start cleaning up."

"I'll help you!" Arisa said and got up to follow Fay into the kitchen.

"No!" Fay said immediately. "You guys leave, it's your night," she said picking up some plates. "Besides Arisa didn't you want to whipâ€¦ you know what I am talking about!" she teased.

"Fayyyyâ€¦ eeewwwwwâ€¦" Aya exclaimed and jumped off Sanada's lap.

Arisa laughed and pulled Oshitari to stand up. "Well, I don't think I could do that in my condition," she said with a bright smile.

"What condition?" both Aya and Fay asked surprising everyone left in the room.

"I'm pregnant!" Arisa mused happily.

Aya and Fay froze at the news. "Wha?" Fay gasped.

"Now you tell us?" Aya pouted. "We could have demanded gifts for the baby from the guests," she teased and hugged Arisa.

Fay rolled her eyes but hugged Arisa too and congratulated Oshitari.

After bidding goodbye to both their friends Aya returned to the living room and sat next to Sanada.

"Aya don't get too comfortable, get your ass in the kitchen and start washing the dishes," Fay ordered as she walked into the living room.

Aya groaned unhappy and got up. "You see how she treats me?" she pouted.

Sanada chuckled as he too got up from his chair. "I should be going. It's late."

"Fine, say nothing about the friend who is bossing your girl!" Aya stopped abruptly when she felt Sanada's lips against hers.

Sanada pulled and looked at his girlfriend who was staring at him surprised not expecting him to be so forward. "It's not like you to complain so much!" he chuckled. "I'll call you tomorrow."

Aya nodded and walked with him to the door.

"I want to rip his head off", Fay thought looking at Sanada and Aya leave the room. "I'm in my worst condition and he does that?" She turned around and walked into the kitchen annoyed. "I can't handle this situation anymore."

"Fay, I will bring the plates and glasses from the living room. Okay?" Aya said popping her head from the door.

"Uh huh!"

Aya looked at her friend tapping her fingers on the counter. "Are you okay?" she asked and entered in the kitchen.

"Sure! Just very tired," she answered mechanically. "Go bring the plates."

Aya nodded and left.

The cleaned took almost three hours and both girls were very tired. They both walked out of the kitchen and Fay made her way to her room.

"Fay!"

Fay stopped and turned slightly around. "What is it?" she sighed tiredly.

Aya looked at her friend annoyed. "I'm sorry to annoy your highness but we have a refugee!" she gestured with her hands to the couch.

Fay walked to the couch and looked down at the person who was occupying it. "Throw him out!" she said and left the room.

"What is wrong with her?" Aya screamed inwardly. She sighed and looked at Atobe Keigo who was lying sound asleep on the sofa. He had an arm over his eyes and his chest was rising up and down slowly as he breathed in and out.

She walked up to him and eyed him curiously. _Hmâ€| This is so unlike him; would he just fall asleep like that?_

She studied him more and admired many of his features, _I must admit that he is handsome, _she thought with a giggle. She went to the closet in her room and pulled out a blanket. She walked back to him and placed it gently on top of him.

She had leaned close to him wanting to cover him. Eh? Is he awake? She looked at him and blinked thinking her eyes were playing games at her.

Atobe looked at her hazed while he moved the hand that covered his eyes to cup Aya's cheek. He lifted his head and placed his lips softly over hers.

Aya gasped at the feel of his lips on hers and tried pull away but Atobe moved his hand around to the base of her neck and pulled her closer. He deepened the kiss moving his lips sensually over hers.

What to do? What to do? Aya thought in panic mode but didn't pull away from Atobe. _Heâ€| isâ€| a good kisser_. She closed her eyes and enjoyed the kiss knowing that it would be over sooner or later.

A couple of minutes later Atobe pulled away breathing air hungrily but before he released Aya from his arms, he moved his head to the side and whispered "thank you." He let go and closed his eyes drifting off to sleep.

I believe today qualifies for a weird day, Aya thought standing up and walking to her room.

End
file.